Earth First!

Yule 1993 | Vol. XIV, No. II

December 21 | THE *RADICAL* ENVIRONMENTAL JOURNAL | $3.50

Malaysian Army Attacks Penan

photo by Andy Frame

Editor's note: This message was carried by a messenger from the Penan Long Mobui blockade and translated from their language—this is a condensed version of the original message.

Here we Penans tell you about the troubles we experienced on 28 September 1993:

Without any announcement, about 300 people arrived in 45 vehicles—cars, tractors, lorries and bulldozers, to harass us. There were soldiers, police and forestry officials, people from the logging company (Samling Timber Co.) and from the village of Long San. There were just over one hundred of us at the blockade site at the time. They told us that they had an order from the district officer in Marudi, but they did not show us any document. Instead, they began to arrest us, nine Penans all together. When they realised that one of us was a child of six years old and two of us were sick, they released these three. The six Penans arrested were driven away. About three miles from the blockade site, some Penan families were walking along the road. The police then arrested five Penan men. The wives of these men were left behind, stranded in the middle of nowhere.

On the same day, all our huts were torn down with chainsaws and burned. Our rice fields were bulldozed, and five tear-gas bombs were thrown in the midst of men, women, children and elderly people. When we were disabled by the tear-gas, the police and the soldiers went on to destroy our barricade which we had been guarding for nine months. The police had shields and helmets and they hit us without pity. Some of us bled and fell unconscious. All of our pet monkeys, hens and dogs were killed by the bombs. One very sick six-year-old child, who had just come back from the hospital in town, died later soon afterwards. Six blowpipes, five bush knives, four quivers with darts & poison, and one box of personal belongings were confiscated from us.

The next day two troops of soldiers arrived—one in a truck and another in a Malaysian Air Force helicopter. They jumped out and asked for our leaders. They threatened to tear gas the hut where the leaders were supposedly hiding. Then, after telling some Penan farmers in the vicinity to leave, they set fire to their huts.

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Maine Victory!

BY RON HUBER

The wild Maine coast has survived a try by Allied Energy Services (AES) to build a coal-fired power plant there. AES recently announced it has given up on its attempt to buy off the locals with bribes, bullshit and bullying.

The coal- and trash-burning facility would have been located on the Penobscot River just above Penobscot Bay, only a few miles upwind of Acadia National Park. Toxic monster AES, already dragging around a chain of water and land pollution violations in other parts of the country, thought it could easily bend the rural residents of downeast Maine to its will. The region is lightly populated, with high unemployment, and Arlington, Virginia-based AES thought that by strategically throwing money around, resistance to the scheme could be squashed.

But as locals realized the impact the planned 180-megawatt plant would have on their region's air and water as it burned three million pounds of coal and chemwaste each day, resistance arose. Ecoactivists of every stripe, from Earth Firstlers and Greens to mainstream ecogroups and reg'lar folks, worked to counter the lies, bribes and threats in AES's arsenal.

As is increasingly common with big polluters, AES first told the locals that they would not build the plant if it was not wanted by the local community. But once they began their drive for permits, they tried to brush aside citizen opposition, including a 1991 local referendum against the acid rainmaker. New England environmental heavyweights Conservation Law Foundation and Natural Resources Council of Maine then threw their hats into the ring, supplying grassrooters with expert witnesses to counter AES's biostitutes.

The company's heavy-handed tactics pissed off the town of Bucksport's Zoning Board of Appeals, which reversed permits to build at the mouth of the Penobscot River. AES then tried to sue the town, claiming the zoning board was "biased" against them. The court threw out the case.

Another nail in the polluter's coffin was a lawsuit filed by residents living next to the proposed coalburner site. They pointed out that the company's lease option on the property had expired and thus AES no longer had the right to ask for permits.

Also faced with strategic monkeywrenching strikes against their materials, the company finally threw in the towel, roughly a million dollars poorer. The air of downeast Maine remains clear, and the megadeath of plankton, fish and shellfish that would have occurred once the plant's cooling water intakes had begun their savage suction has been averted.

California Activists Defend Gray Whale Ranch

BY DAVID

On November 11, after being held up by appeals and lawsuits for nine years, loggers started cutting trees on Gray Whale Ranch, which will become Gray Whale State Park next year if the California Parks and Wildlife Initiative is passed.

A 177-acre Timber Harvest Plan (THP) for the Majors Creek area had been appealed by Santa Cruz County. In a sneak attack, the California Board of Forestry issued a statement declining to hear the appeal at 4:55 pm the day before Veterans Day, leaving a gap of a four-day holiday before any move could be made to stop them in the courts.

G & H Tree Service, hired by Idaho developer Ron Yanke, began cutting the next day. Permission was given by local California Department of Forestry (CDF) hack Nancy Drinkard, in disregard of local ordinances forbidding logging on national holidays. Drinkard later claimed it was "simply an honest mistake."

After cutting 174 trees in two days, G & H went back on Monday morning to finish the job. They were surprised to be confronted by about 20 forest activists who persuaded the three fallers to take the day off. But more than 100 trees were at risk, suffering from "blue-line-disease"—marked to be cut, including some beautiful Douglas fir up to four and a half feet in diameter.

On Tuesday morning, the Santa Cruz County Sheriff's Department sent in about 20 officers, including six clad in shiny brand new camo gear, to assist the loggers. Meanwhile, the County of Santa Cruz Planning Department was filing a lawsuit to stop the logging and had a court hearing for a temporary restraining order scheduled for Wednesday. Go figure that one out and tell me if we really need to have a government.

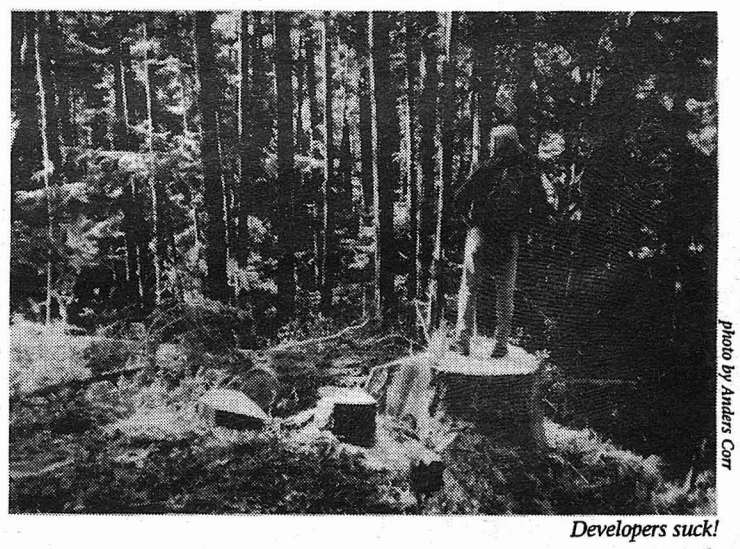

photo by Anders Corr

Developers suck!

With two more days before even the chance of a stop to the logging, activists took to the woods again, playing cat and mouse, trying to sneak into the logging area. The cops in camo were watching, with activists running from them on sight. A fairly comical scene. After a couple of hours and several arrests, there were about 20 cats and only a few mice.

The numerous of cops were unable to keep people away from the logging operation. Activists risked their lives by running under the falling trees, on the somewhat idealistic notion that the cutting would be stopped if the life of a human was endangered. One activist popped out of the

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EARTH FIRST!

NO COMPROMISE IN THE DEFENSE OF MOTHER EARTH!

POB 1415 * EUGENE, OREGON 97440 * 503-741-9191

No Compromise in the Defense of... Political Ideology?

BY CRAIG BENEVILLE

I had the opportunity to attend a Western Ancient Forest Campaign conference in November. One of the workshop discussions featured two of the plaintiffs who cut the deal with the Clinton administration concerning the spotted owl lawsuit (see *Samhain* for the rundown on the deal).

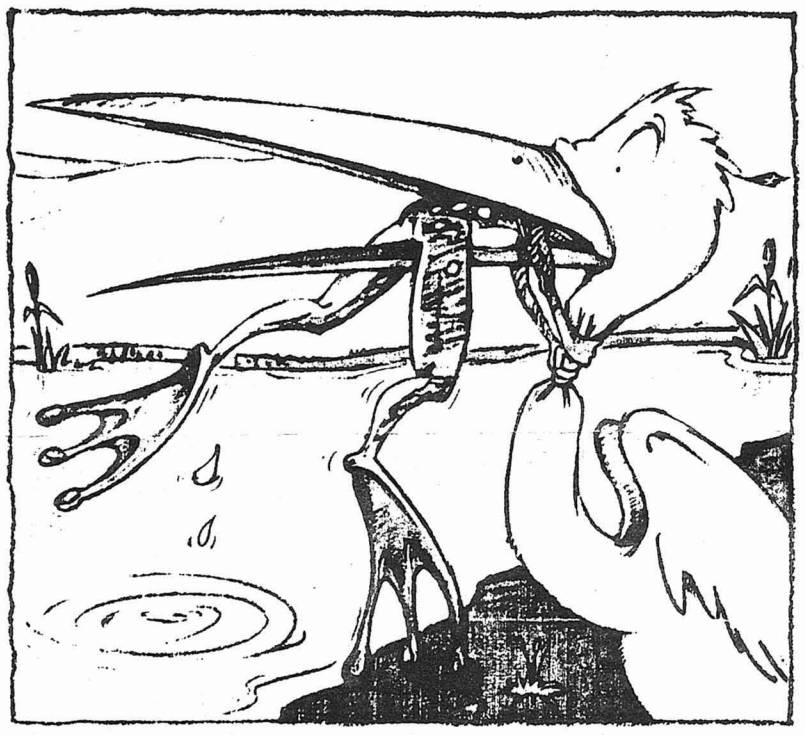
The basic excuse proffered by the two was that the political pressure was just too intense, and if they hadn't given up the 54 old growth timber sales, the Clinton administration would have used sufficiency language and/or a rider to legislate the cuts. The environmental movement is just not strong enough to defeat such a rider at this time, they said. A matter of political reality, they said.

What horseshit.

In the weeks following the conference I have come to realize that it is the broader issues of power that are perhaps most troubling. Political power operates on a number of different levels, the most recognized of which is the ability to influence the outcome of political issues. What the issues are, and what the self-appointed "leaders" of the movement are willing to put forth as issues, however, are also important indicators of where we are and how far we have to go.

The mainstream media spends endless amounts of time commenting on how "polarized" the forest issue has become. The most remarkable aspect of the situation, though, is not the *difference* of opinion, but rather *how similar* the competing agendas really are.

The forest movement, as far as I can tell, is getting nowhere because the technocrats in Washington continue to allow the forest "issue" to be considered in terms of "allowable harvest" and "volume." By adopting such an anthropocentric framework, they close out all other options, regardless of what they really believe or intend. "Political reality" becomes a measure of the compromise needed to work within the dominant industrial agenda.



If these people actually believed what they proposed, perhaps they could be dismissed as dunderheads, albeit dangerous ones. But the sad and rather sick reality seems to be that these so-called representatives of the forest are they themselves censoring their stated ideas and demands, in order to appease the power structure and stay in the game. Of course, the forest movement is not alone in this criticism. The whole of environmentalism suffers from such self-imposed limitations.

I agree with the graffiti on a Paris wall during the 1968 French student uprising: "BE REALISTIC: DEMAND THE IMPOSSIBLE." At this point in the late, great quaternary extinction spasm it's not enough to deal in political realism. *Ecological* realism must assume primacy. We must ensure enough wilderness remains not only to sustain present ecological communities, but also to allow the full expression of evolutionary potential within them. If this reality is outside the ken of those in the halls of Washington, that's their problem. We're here for the Earth, not political maneuvering. Let's start acting like it.

New and Improved

In case you didn't notice, we raised our cover price to reflect the quality (and financial status) of the Journal. Subscribe, and save big money off the cover price.

We wish to thank two special people, one from the west coast and one from the east, for helping us become more technologically advanced. We are still in need of a photocopier, so we are starting a copier lease fund if you would like to donate. Additionally, graphics, photos and cover art are still being requested. We've used up our supply of post-pleistocene charismatic mega-fauna. All species of graphics and their habitats are essential for a viable Journal ecosystem.

Yule by Peggy Sue McRae

Yule celebrates the returning light. Hanukkah candles and Christmas lights both have deeper roots in pagan celebrations honoring the returning sun.

Sacred plants of the season are the evergreens, trees that retain their life and vitality throughout the year. A reverence for evergreens as a symbol of life everlasting is the history of today's Christmas tree. Cutting the tree down and bringing it inside to dry up and die defeats the sacred meaning. In an era of unprecedented deforestation there are better ways to honor evergreens than to kill them. Using driftwood or boughs taken from windfall are a few alternatives.

Holly and ivy are also traditional plants of the season. Holly represents the male and the female. Legend has it that the first of these plants to be brought into the home after Yule determines who among the household shall rule the home through the following year.

Earth First!
Yule
December 21, 1993
Vol. XIV, No. II

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Submissions are welcomed and should be typed or clearly printed. Send a SASE if you would like them returned. If you want confirmation of receipt of a submission, please request it. We encourage submissions on Macintosh disks or via EcoNet. Art or photographs (B&W negatives are best, prints are good, slides are fair) are desirable to illustrate articles and essays. They will be returned if requested.

All submissions are edited for length and clarity. If an article is significantly edited, we will make a reasonable effort to contact the author prior to publication.

ISSN 1055-8411 *Earth First! Journal* is indexed in the Alternative Press Index.

All correspondence regarding subscriptions, merchandise orders, donations, letters to the editor, articles, photos, graphics, etc., should be directed to:

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SCHEDULE

Earth First! Journal is published 8 times a year on the solstices, equinoxes, and cross-quarter days: November 1, December 21 or 22 (Winter Solstice), February 2, March 21 or 22 (Vernal Equinox), May 1, June 21 or 22 (Summer Solstice), August 1, and September 21 or 22 (Autumnal Equinox). One-year subscriptions in the U.S. via third class mail are $25. First class delivery is $35. Outside the USA, surface delivery is $35 and airmail is $45.

Deadline for the next issue is:

January 15

Op-Ed: We May Not Have Leaders...

BY MICHELLE STEWART

Elitism within the EF! movement.

What often erupts from the use of this phrase is a defensive discussion that lasts a few minutes, before it becomes ludicrous and I give up. I've been told elitism doesn't exist or (better yet) that I am "threatening the movement" with such a suggestion. There is a group of folks in this movement that I truly wish would put their fear of being wrong aside and hear the words and the emotion within this article. I've tried, in vain, to discuss this problem with folks I think are either oblivious to their role or are happy being up there on the rungs of the EF! ladder—the very ladder they adamantly profess doesn't exist. The most common response is that there is no elitism in Earth First! and that people who believe there is should try harder to get involved in things, instead of blaming other folks for the fact that "...someone has to make the decisions sometimes." Am I the only one that finds this response to be just a wee bit ASININE?

It does seem to be a common theme that those in the clique claim it doesn't exist, and those who aren't (and don't want to be) insist it does. Both sides are screaming out of frustration; however, one side has to be wrong, and the guilty *always* plead their innocence.

Some people imply that the only way to beat them is to join them. That being the case, here are some quick, easy steps to becoming one of the elite. One has only to go to a Rendezvous or (better yet) an activist conference to find the elite. They are easy to spot; they tend to huddle together. They are also the people who won't talk to you unless your EF! shirt is at least three years old. A Rendezvous shirt works best to win the attention of such folks... at least go back to '89 if you want to join the discussion.

But seriously...

I had become accustomed to the EF! BS!. But this summer it reared its ugly head in a campaign I was working on. It was a basic EF!-style thing—folks in the woods, at Freddy stations, and subsequently in jail. Problems arose, however, when the people in the cities and on the phones decided that doing the press wasn't quite enough and they felt like it was time for them to "control" things. These weren't the people in the woods living and breathing this campaign; these were the so-called organizers making the choices. The elitist stuff in the campaign got to a point when the pile of shit was just too big for anyone to step over anymore.

There were also the potlucks and dinners held for the organizers. Activists who had been involved in the campaign all summer, including those awaiting court, weren't invited. Invitations were only given out to those with the finances to attend such events. Nights like these left a stale bitter taste in my mouth, and left me eventually laughing at the people that had thought Earth First! was a "tribe." But while the self-proclaimed bigwigs eating at the local restaurant were treating EF! like a bureaucracy, the "lowbaggers" eating free chips together were turning it back into a tribe. I realized that the EF! spirit was still alive and strong in those smoky bars—as we plotted out the annihilation of the USFS—and laughed and forgot about the people that were deciding what they would do with us next summer. You can pretend to plan out a campaign *but we don't have to listen!!*

Campaigns aren't worked on over dinner, and they aren't won over dessert. Campaigns are waged and won by the activists, and the truth is we've felt those trees and critters pumping their life into our blood. We all know, deep down, what we think it will take to put the Earth first and we don't need another to direct us.

I have met a lot of really great activists in Earth First!, people I admire the hell out of. The problem in the movement arose when admiration and respect became stepping stones. Respect and admiration are emotions, not rungs on a ladder.

I am not pointing fingers at any one person. The situation we are in right now is the collective effort of the people who put another over them, and those who *allow* themselves to be put in a position where their actions and decisions are considered more important. Equally at fault are those who allow the process to continue around them without standing up. Read your bumperstickers: "Question Authority!"

I hope people have read this through, not scanned it and then turned the page. Earth First! may be a movement without leaders, but it does have its elite. Consider this piece to be constructive criticism, something we should be able to take from our friends, because I am writing this to people I think are good folks.

As a movement, we need to learn and grow. Countering elitism could be quite simple—it just requires individuals to be willing to do their part and be willing to *admit* fault. People have to be willing to teach their skills to others, and at the same time others must be willing to learn new things. Also, people who have been at this for years need to release their control of some aspects of EF! Their experience is a valuable thing, but at the same time, new people need to learn and making mistakes eventually becomes experience. Most importantly, we all need to start listening to each other.

We are a strong group of people with equally strong convictions—elitism weakens us, and we need all the strength we can muster to continue the fight. I hope we all look at our roles in this problem, and then get back to the task at hand. As for myself, it is time for me to move on to things far more important than we could ever be.

Earth First!

LETTERS TO THE EDITORS

Dear Dawgshit for Brains,

A slurpy lick 'o the face goes to Mark Davis and the Journalistas for confronting the latest shit-fer-books about the EF! movement. I have plenty of bones to pick with Zakin's "Coyotes and Town Dogs" but would rather spend my time barking at the Freddies than to waste my dawg breath on that pile of poop. I'm so sick of Alpo-fed urinalists like Zakin distorting our history, twisting our politics, and pissing on our pack of wild wolves with their psycho-anal-lick-dick accounts of individuals' personalities. It's enough to make a dawg rabid with rage!

Zakin's defecation-deification of Big Dave does a great disservice to our movement, and to Mark. Big Dave has been getting Gravy Train from EF!ers for years. I dare say that all the baying from Foremanistas has intimidated the *Journal* from confronting his past, once again haunting our present, until now. A dawg is known to be very forgiving, but certain stenches we never forget. I remember the Boulder activist conference where some of us learned for the first time the extent to which Big Dave and Co. had been turning our mass movement into his private business. This shock was further compounded upon learning that he was pocketing donations for legal defense of the Arizona Five (5!), and was willing to let the others go to the dog-pound to keep his own stinky butt out of jail. It was a very important lesson for us all: if the Police State can turn the most revered "No Compromise" ecowarrior into an opportunist extraordinaire, then who can be trusted?

The answer, of course, is that no single person should have the kind of power and immunity from criticism that Big Dave once enjoyed as the Alpha Dawg of our formerly tiny pack. So, if you think you are in the P.W.A.K.A.T. Kennel-Club (Pooches We All Know And Trust) and think you can follow big Dave's trail—to trash the movement while you cash in on it—you better think again. Thanks to Mark and the Journalistas, we are learning from our history and will not repeat it. Bare your fangs at the Corporate lap-dog press and poodle-lovers like Zakin! Power to the Pack! Howwwlll!,

—WEIRDWOLF

(See part two of Mark Davis's Open Letter to Susan Zakin in this issue.—ed.)

To the Editor:

The goal of biological preservation is to reduce and restrict worldwide biological "pollution" or the loss of unique species, races, and landscapes. Ideally, this entails protection of species over their entire geographical range in an abundance somewhat approaching natural conditions. This, in turn, relies upon preservation to the greatest degree possible of natural processes such as wildfire, predator-prey relationships, disease and other factors that influence species numbers and distribution.

Because of this, preservation of biodiversity and continued livestock production, particularly on public lands, is an oxymoron. You can't be putting the majority of the land's forage and water into exotic, non-native animals without negatively impacting native species. There is no free lunch. Even if livestock were perfectly managed, they would still be consuming forage that could support native species from grasshoppers to elk. Less grasshoppers means less food for birds or trout. Consuming fine fuels reduces the likelihood of wildfires. Loss of litter means less hiding cover for small rodents and ground nesting birds. Consumption of flower blossoms means fewer butterflies and other insects.

In addition, the majority of water diverted from western rivers and streams goes to produce livestock feed at the expense of the aquatic life. Add in the negative effects of predator control, riparian damage, soil erosion, water pollution and the like, and it's easy to understand how livestock production is the SINGLE greatest impact on the biological integrity of the entire West. Except for species that thrive on disturbance like deer, livestock production significantly reduces the overall viability of native species and many ecological processes.

The only way we can ensure long-term preservation of biological diversity is by expanding the land base where native ecosystems function and integrity is given priority. Some suggest we accomplish this by making both private and public land management ecologically sustainable. An ecologically sustainable livestock operation may still not be a good place for sustaining wolves, grizzlies, trout or a lot of other species. While sustainability is a laudable goal, I would argue there are no examples anywhere of where we have truely achieved this and it's likely this may be impossible to do.

As a safety net for our native wildlife and ecosystems, we should at least manage our public lands to sustain native species, not exotic aliens. If we need to grow beef at all—a questionable assumption—at the very least this should be restricted entirely to private lands. Public lands should focus on providing the most favorable environment possible for the growing of grizzlies, bison, elk, bighorns, butterflies, grasshoppers, and trout.

—GEORGE WUERTHNER
LIVINGSTON, MONTANA

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The Wild Ranch Manifesto

BY TIM HAUGEN

Among the more frequently encountered environmental bromides is the one about how Americans consume more per capita than the people of any other "culture" in the world, the point being that a sustainable future will necessarily involve a reduction in our "American standard of living." In my experience, the authors presenting this truism are universally apologetic in presenting their conclusions. "We must sacrifice. We must deny our desires for the benefit of others, and for the future of the planet. Sob, sob."

Can there be any wonderment that this line of reasoning has not exactly gripped our compatriots with a fervor for change? Indeed, when the late president George played Scrooge in Rio, he trumpeted his refusal to go along by proclaiming that he would not ask the American people to sacrifice their standard of living. The conservative American punditry cheered his resolve. And through their actions, consumers continue to justify the ever-expanding really gross national product.

As presented, this environmental argument is dead on arrival. Calls for sacrifice do not generate mass movements of the kind that the world needs now. However, recently published tracts and also personal experiences tell me that this argument can be salvaged, but only if we wrest it from the clutches of the liberal crybabies and repackage it in the form of a truly radical critique of contemporary society—a critique that exposes for ridicule the myths that buttress mainstream material values. A critique broadcast to the public not by the lamentations of liberals, but by the riotous laughter of those of us who have discovered the joys of living life in defiance of those mainstream material values.

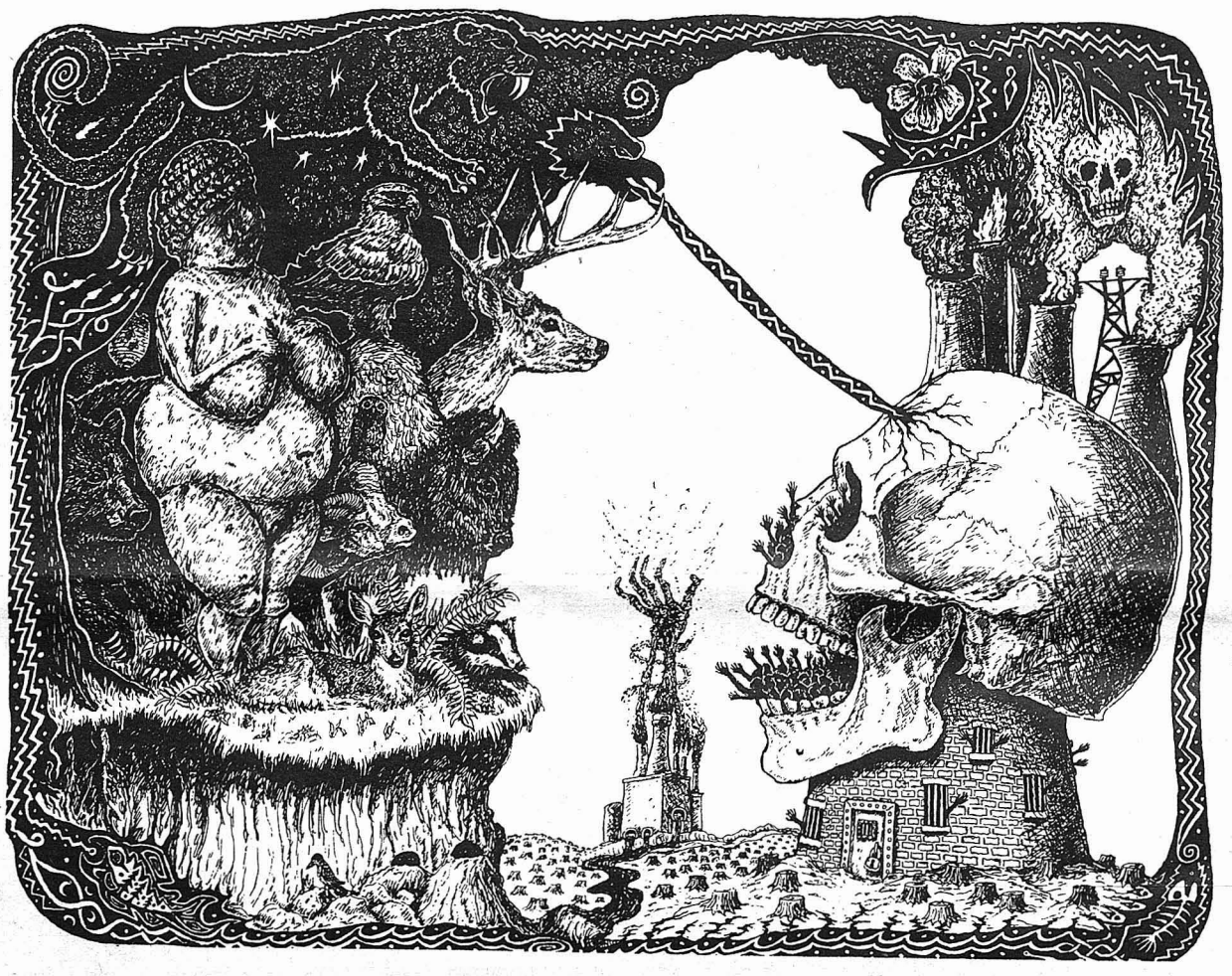
Consider, for example, the life of my friend Roger. By all current economic formulations, Roger should be living in poverty. He works only four months a year, and perhaps an occasional odd-job during the remaining months. But Roger's other friends who live the mainstream 40-48 hour work week, 50 weeks a year, do not pity him. They are, in fact, insanely jealous of him. Why?

Roger's philosophy is simple. "Figure out what you really enjoy doing. Work only enough to spend the rest of your time doing what you really like to do." For Roger, one day of work equals one week of exploring his wilderness bioregion of choice; the Boundary Waters Canoe area of northern Minnesota and southern Ontario. Roger's life is not defined by his work, but rather by the adventures that his few months of work a year make possible.

In contrast, Roger's friends have bought, literally, the American dream, and the accompanying lifetime of debt. Homes, vehicles, electronics... their assumed obligations have reduced them to wage slaves. Sure, they have more nice things than Roger, but their jealousy mounts with each passing year. Belatedly, they learned the truth that Roger has known all along: a huge pile of trinkets cannot make up for the banality and drudgery of modern working life. Whenever they see Roger, they say, "Man, you're doing it right." And Roger agrees.

The defenders of the status quo claim that the current system is unequaled in its ability to satisfy the needs and wants of people. On one level, this is certainly true. There are more things out there to be bought than ever before. But are desires really being satisfied, or are they being perpetually renewed? Every evening, people seeking to forget for a little while the drudgery of their daily lives will plug into their electronic opiates, only to be bombarded with images of this new thing that they absolutely cannot live without. While the system may be unequaled in providing things, it constantly rebuilds the illusion of deprivation, perpetuating bondage to the system. If the system is really geared to satisfy the desires of people, as its apologists claim, then why are so few people in our modern society satisfied? In fact, the headlines tell us of a dysfunctional society, and not of a contented populace. This dissatisfaction is the soft underbelly of the status quo.

The philosophy of the status quo is summed up the T-shirt slogan, "He who dies with the most toys, wins." But the contrast between the lives of Roger and his friends should cause us to rephrase the slogan: "He or she who dies after having spent the most time at play, wins." The difference between the two slogans



is the same difference that can be apprehended between "standard of living" and "quality of life." The two are not interchangeable.

Another indication that the material culture is not all that its propagandists would have us believe has been the reluctance of fourth world cultures to adopt our ways. The Penan of Borneo, the Bushmen of Africa, the Aboriginal Australians and Indians throughout the Americas have resisted assimilation, even when the alternative has been genocide. This is a bewildering phenomenon to those who would "improve the lot of the savages." Their reluctance to assimilate is often attributed to ignorance or superstition. But M. Annette Jaimes of the University of Colorado and Jerry Mander are just two of several writers and researchers who cite a far more startling explanation. Contrary to all conventional wisdom, the lives of the so-called "primitive" are much easier than those of "modern man" (not to mention modern woman).

Jaimes does acknowledge that 19th century anthropologists described toil as being a "virtual constant" in Indian life. But she goes on to point out that those anthropologists were studying cultures under siege, being forced off their traditional lands by the westward expansion of European America. Studies of traditional cultures that have not undergone these disruptions paint for us a far more appealing picture of "primitive life." Among the Dobe Bushmen of Botswana, only two-thirds of the potential work force feel compelled to "work" (gather, hunt...) during any given time period, and those who do work are so occupied for an average of 15 hours a week (2 hours and 9 minutes per day). Even at this level of work activity, the bushmen generate more than what they need. Among the Toupouri of north Cameroon, 105.5 days a year are devoted to agriculture, 87.5 days to other work, 161.5 days are devoted to leisure, and 9.5 "sick" days are average. Jaimes goes on to cite studies of fourth world cultures around the world, all showing this same pattern of short work days and roughly every other day off, with free time devoted to "dancing, wrestling... informal recreation... loafing."

Contrast this with the 40-48 hour work week that is typical in this country, plus commuting, subsistence shopping, food preparation... no wonder contemporary civilization is dysfunctional. I would wager that even great sex would become drudgery if one were obligated to spend this much time engaged in it.

It's naive to think that you can turn back the march of time. You can't stand in the way of progress...

These platitudes, designed to keep people sedated and helpless, are certainly true if we as a society continue to blindly follow the corporate and political leadership to whatever ends they have in mind for us. And obviously, the reconstruction of a natural culture will not happen in a few quick, easy steps. But there are some of us who are actively making the transition to a less material, more viable way of life, and finding that the result is not a life of deprivation, but one of unimagined freedom. We're not sobbing, but laughing, and wondering why anyone would want to endure modern life.

Eight years ago, I abandoned the student life just shy of a Master's degree. Since then, I've lived in the woods with traditional Indians, worked as a tree planter, ski-bummed, washed birds and beaches in Prince William Sound. And I'm in the process of establishing a nature preserve carved out of former ranch land in the middle of cowboy country. Wild Ranch. One hundred acres of once cow-beaten land now being converted back to elk pastures.

My days are very busy, but it's an interesting, fulfilling busyness as opposed to the mind-numbing routine of your average American wage slave. Instead of accumulating things, I'm accumulating quality time.

So you want to foster a less consumptive, more Ecotopian society? First, rid yourself of your mainstream American values. Build a way of life devoted to adventure and quality time rather than accumulation. Join with those of us who are already laughing at the brainwashed drudges slaving away, making them jealous. This is the key. Instead of sobbing about sacrifices that need to be made, laugh! Show mainstream working Americans that it is their sacrifice that is intolerable. They're squandering away the experience of life for the sake of collecting trinkets. Really this is not a difficult thing to do.

Just don't take Tim's word for it; he is offering summer seminars at his Wild Ranch nature preserve. The purpose of the seminars will be to undermine mainstream values by exposing the myths of contemporary civilization, and to nurture the growth of a parallel Ecotopian culture. For information on the seminars or to subscribe to the Wild Ranch Review, *contact Tim Haugen, Wild Ranch, POB 81, Gulnare, CO 81042.*

Mt. Graham Old Growth Cut

UA Attacks Emerald Peak Again

BY KIMBERLY DAWN

On December 7, in a pernicious effort to cause as much damage as possible before legal and cultural issues are settled, the University of Arizona (UA) cut four acres on Mt. Graham's eastern Emerald Peak, destroying 250 old growth trees. The cut came a month after UA informed the US Forest Service of plans to abandon their effort to build an observatory on Owl Peak and resume work on Emerald Peak. The news of the cut stunned activists nationwide and spurred demonstrations at the Universities of Toronto and Pittsburgh and Michigan State University, all possible financial backers.

Activists with the Student Environmental Action Coalition (SEAC) at the University of Pittsburgh (Pitt) took over the chancellor's office and demanded a meeting to discuss the university's potential involvement in the scope project. The activists held the office for six hours before they were dragged out and arrested. The chancellor refused to meet with SEAC as a group, choosing instead to speak only with a "leader" in a predictable politician-style ploy to diffuse group solidarity. UA has been courting Pitt (one of many) for the past two years and Pitt has indeed shown an interest in becoming a partner in the project. According to the chancellor, the Columbus telescope (considered the centerpiece of the Mt. Graham project) is a likely investment.

The University of Toronto is another potential backer of the flawed project, but school administrators appear to be getting cold feet. At least 30 activists held a demonstration led by the Mt. Graham Coalition. Activists met with staff of the Department of Astronomy and were told that while chances of the university's involvement are exceedingly slim, they have not been yet ruled out. Students at Michigan State University symbolically marked 250 trees for cutting on campus to try to raise student body awareness and send a message to the administration.

Believing they are above the law, UA has attempted to ignore point after point of the Congressional act they agreed to in 1988, which allowed them to build on Mt. Graham. After discovering Emerald Peak had the worst visibility on the mountain and would require a telescope 236 feet high, UA asked the Forest Service for a patently illegal move to Owl Peak. In early November, UA backed down from their request for Owl and proceeded with plans to build on Emerald. The law authorized telescopes "clustered off the west end" of a clearing at the top of Emerald Peak. The recent cut, wrongly approved by the US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), is at the eastern end of the peak.

UA has no financial partners besides the Vatican-backed Arcetri Observatory in this dark comedy of scientific blunders. After UA rescinded its request for Owl Peak, Mt. Graham supporters had high hopes that the remaining construction would be nixed due to dwindling funds and backers. UA's determination to continue building this monstrosity can only be described as perverse. Is the power of the Vatican the only thing keeping this ship of fools afloat?

The December 7 cut is a direct attack on the mountain by UA and the Forest Service. The San Carlos Apache revere the mountain and consider it to be a holy shrine. At the risk of sounding somewhat woo, there are heavy penalties for desecrating a holy place. Those involved will surely languish in some sort of hell for all eternity (or at least several life spans). Enraged letters and angry phone calls (try calling collect first, ya never know, they may accept the charges) and of course, direct action are all in order. Let's take this pain and anger and redirect it at the UA and the Forest Service. Let's make them suffer.

Forest Service, Safford Ranger District: (602) 428-4150;

Mollie Beattie, Director, US Fish and Wildlife Service: (202) 208-4717; Regional Director Jim Young: (505) 766-2320.

On November 6 and 7, Pearl Jam did benefit concerts for the Mt. Graham Coalition and Apache Survival Coalition. The shows opened with traditional tribal drums and featured Apache singer Chelsie Wilson, Native American performer Bill Miller, and the Butthole Surfers.

During their set, lead singer Eddie Vedder draped a UA sweatshirt across the microphone stand and set it on fire. "U of A, fuck you if you go ahead and develop Mt. Graham," shouted Vedder as he danced around the burning sweatshirt. Later, as he introduced the band's anti-abuse song, *Alive*, Vedder said, "Tonight this song isn't about a person, it's about a mountain." Mt. Graham supporters, Apaches, and Earth Firstlers in the audience let out shouts of approval and, of course, howled.

Editor's note: At press time, the Journal received the following information: The head of USFWS, Mollie Beattie, is looking into the question of whether her agency "erred" in approving the telescope construction on the eastern end of Emerald Peak. Beattie said she has not reviewed the documents prepared by her staff (in other words, she has no idea what's going on) but called the situation "very alarming." Give her a call and tell her that you find the whole situation to be very alarming indeed.

FIRE in Southern California's Endangered Ecosystems

BY CRAIG BENEVILLE

Southern California is a place that likes to burn. The land has evolved with fire as an integral landscape component. Couple this fact with a history of fire suppression and the blazes that raged through the southland the last week of October come as no surprise.

The fires, 25 in all, burned over 173,000 acres in six counties, fueled by hot, dry Santa Ana winds. Roughly 24,000 acres were coastal sage scrub and mixed sage scrub/grassland. The remaining acreage was chaparral and houses. Over 300 endangered California gnatcatchers representing 6% of the total population are thought to have perished in the fires, along with 800 coastal cactus wrens (17% of the nation's population).

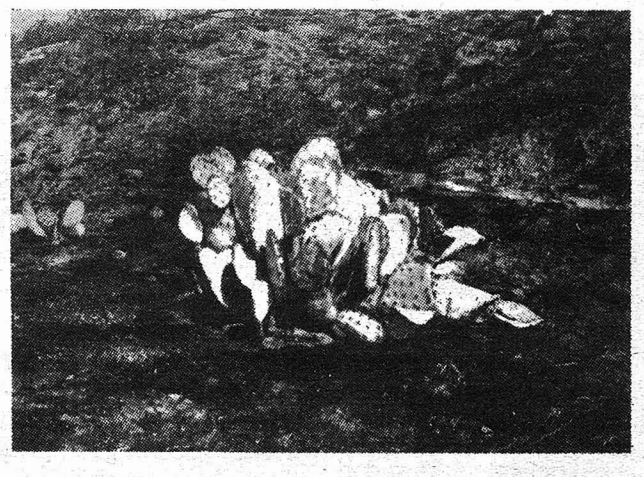
Perhaps the most significant blaze in terms of sensitive species and habitat occurred in Orange County, where an arsonist ignited the San Joaquin Hills. The fire burned the largest intact area of coastal sage scrub on the coast of California, as well as a bunch of houses in Laguna Beach. It was found to have been started along the proposed pathway of a highly controversial tollroad (see Samhain *EF! Journal*), leaving local activists wondering about the arsonist's real motivations.

The Reaction

The Transportation Corridor Agency, in charge of building said tollroad, immediately filed to have the present injunction against construction in the area lifted. Their argument: since there are no more gnatcatchers in the hills there is no legal reason for the injunction to remain, and besides, construction of the road will help contain erosion (?).

One thing the fires did not burn away was entrenched attitudes of the control of nature. Local editorial pages screamed at the type of "overzealous environmentalism" that did not allow extensive weed clearing, reservoir construction, and road building that "could have stopped the fires."

Following the fire, desperate to "do something" about wild nature running amok, the California Department of Forestry (CDF) proposed massive aerial reseeding of the burned areas in the San Joaquin Hills. The plans immediately drew intense criticism. The seeded plants compete with native vegetation for water and nutrients, hampering its recovery. Although intended for erosion control, the shallow roots of non-native grasses are ineffective. In fact, the grasses actually encourage water-logged slopes to sag from the additional weight. The annual grasses also provide fuel for additional fires when they die. Ignored is the fact that most of the erosion "problems" are due to sedimentation and bank cuts in watercourses that won't be affected by re-seeding either way.



The outcry was not enough to stop the mad plans, only limit them. Rather than re-seeding the entire 14,000 acres of the San Joaquin Hills burn area, the CDF limited their program to 3,400 acres of urban facing slopes. Instead of using the originally proposed rye grass they opted for a mix of native grasses and *Zorro fescue*, a European invader. The native grasses were of the genus *Stipa*, and while the species is indigenous to the area, the seed stock was not locally procured and could cause significant genetic pollution.

In other areas the scenarios are much the same. The Forest Service intends to reseed the Ortega fire, within the Cleveland National Forest, with a seed mix similar to the San Joaquin HIlls area. The BLM also has plans for re-seeding in San Diego County.

The Recovery

Despite the blackened, moonlike appearance of the land and the short-sighted actions of the government, the land is not dead. It is alive! Left alone, it should recover just fine. The spring will bring a carpet of wildflowers, including fire poppies and whispering bells as well as lupines, fiddlenecks and phacelias. In fact, plant diversity is greatest immediately after a fire. Perennial shrubs will resprout from specially fire-adapted root systems, and vigorous blooming will send forth a rain of seeds, fueling an explosion of seedlings the following spring.

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Last Stand at Lyle Point

Native Rights vs. Developers in the Columbia Gorge

BY SCOTT GREACEN

Since September, a group of Native Americans and their supporters have maintained an occupation of Lyle Point, a traditional fishing site in the Columbia Gorge, halting development of a riverfront subdivision for wealthy windsurfers.

The protesters are defending a burial and fishing site that belongs to the River People of the mid-Columbia River by virtue of an 1855 treaty, a century of federal legal precedent, and 10,000 years of occupancy. Describing their action as the latest in a long struggle for fishing rights, treaty rights, and cultural survival, they have vowed to maintain their encampment and keep their sacred fire burning on Lyle Point until the planned Klickitat Landing subdivision is permanently halted.

Klickitat Landing developer Henry Spencer is a windsurfer who came to the booming Columbia Gorge from Falmouth, Massachusetts as the Cape Cod real estate market collapsed. Spencer says he has made every effort to address the fishing peoples' rights, and claims to have secured an agreement with the Confederated Tribes of the Yakima Reservation. That claim was flatly denied by Harry Smiskin, Vice-Chair of the Yakima Tribal Council.

Either way, the pro-business county commission had already dismissed the objections of native and environmental activists to developing of one of the last sizable pieces of riverfront in the Columbia Gorge.

Before the occupation began, Lyle Point was well on the way to becoming an urban area. Spencer's crews had cleared 32 home sites on 46 acres, installed water, sewer, electric, and cable television lines, and built a showy rock wall and massive steel gate. Sites with services have been advertised for $80,000-215,000 in windsurfing magazines and the *Wall Street Journal*.

Though Spencer has discussed evicting the protesters with the Klickitat County Sheriff's department, he has also proposed that the Trust for Public Land purchase the property for four million dollars, roughly twice the amount Spencer claims to have spent on the project. He paid Burlington Northern $1.2 million for the parcel in 1990.

Lyle Point Today

Lyle, Washington is a small town dominated by modest houses and peeling doublewides, a backwater in a rural county nearly the size of Connecticut. When whites first settled the area a century and a half ago, the high ridges and cliffs that pinch the Columbia between two basalt points provided a natural site for a ferry. The town that grew up around the north landing was one of the earliest white settlements in the interior of what later became the state of Washington.

Of course, people had already lived and worked here for thousands of years. In the Sahaptin dialect of the River People, the windswept peninsula was Nanainmi Waki'uulktt, the "place where the wind blows from two directions," a good place to dry salmon netted in the back-eddies above the mouth of the Klickitat River. It was one of hundreds of small settlements that lined the great river, N'Chewana, when Lewis and Clark ventured downstream.

Twenty-five miles east, squeezed between I-84 and a cliff, are the battered houses and trailers of Celilo Village, the ancient fishing and cultural center of the Columbia Basin. Twelve miles west is the boom city of Hood River, Oregon, hub of the world's trendiest windsurfing scene. Strung between these unhappy poles of fate, Lyle Point might be a place where ten thousand years of fishing culture will be buried by a hip developer's enclave for millionaire windsurfers. Only a small, determined group is stopping it.

Salmon/Religion

To rephrase Norman MacLean, among the native peoples of the Pacific Northwest there is no distinction between fishing and religion. The salmon and steelhead caught at Lyle Point today still supply ceremonies all over the region. Weddings on the Yakima Reservation, a memorial on the Warm Springs Reservation, a name giving in Portland, the root feast on the Umatilla Reservation—a host of occasions require salmon. Margaret Palmer estimates that she supplies 90% of the ceremonial fish for all three reservations, and for many native people outside the reservations.

On Sundays, supporters gather at Lyle Point for a prayer session and salmon feast. Elders first, we eat the traditional foods in traditional order: salmon and elk, roots and berries. After one such gathering, Margaret Palmer uses the feast to explain some things to me. "It reminds me," she says, "about how we can be together in harmony. The Creator gave us gifts, blessings...they have spirits."

"I'm just a fish cutter," Margaret Palmer tells me, but when she says "I don't have the food I used to have," it is clear that she is talking about more than food, or fish. "You don't want to fail in the responsibility that is left to you," she says. "This is my way of life. They never did show any respect or consideration for me to exercise my freedom of religion. That's where my heart is, my way of life."

...no one tries to distinguish the rights of Native peoples from those of the bald eagles who also fish here.

At the feast, elders speak of traditions and memories, treaties and history, of respect for family and relations, of the future and generations yet to come. One tiny old lady, a bright bundle in a wheelchair, tells the story of the Treaty of 1855, by which the River People reserved the right to fish in their "usual and accustomed places." Listening to the translation, I suddenly realize that I am hearing real oral history. She is telling us exactly what each party to the treaty said at the signing.

Given the horrible injuries suffered by the landscapes and peoples of the mid-Columbia over the last two centuries, it seemed to me at first ironic that the trouble at Lyle Point has grown out of Hood River's "clean" windsurfing boom. It's hard to believe that a fishing culture which has survived epidemics, pioneers, mining, logging, forest fires, fish wars, railways, highways, pesticides, dams, barges, and the Hanford nuclear sacrifice zone could crumble before a jetset subculture of wetsuits and nylon sails.

But as I talk to more and more people who live in the Gorge, I begin to comprehend the impact of the windsurfing hordes, especially the substantial segment in their Range Rovers They do not know or seem to care at all that their summer homes are built on the graves of their neighbors' ancestors.

In the plans for the development at Klickitat Landing, the back-eddies between fingers of rock on the tip of the peninsula are marked as windsurfing launch sites. Serious windsurfers agree that the place "where the wind blows in two directions" is not itself a good sailing spot (though it lies in the middle of several that are "world-class"), and that the class of "sailors" to whom the development is being marketed would not likely launch there. But it hardly matters. Those back-eddies are not windsurfing launch sites. They are fishing sites, already occupied by the scaffolds used to lower the big dipnets into the river.

It was the destruction of two of Margaret and Doug Palmer's fishing platforms that sparked the occupation of Lyle Point. (One of Spencer's spokesmen suggested that the platforms "fell in." Yeah, sure they did.) It is the certainty of harassment and intimidation by millionaire windsurfers that makes the Palmers and their supporters less than eager to contemplate compromise.

I asked Doug Palmer if he thought there was any real prospect that the development could proceed in a way that respected the Indian people's fishing rights. "I don't think so," he said. "People aren't paying $250,000 for a place where Indians are coming back and forth being an 'eyesore'. Tem (Spencer) says they will, but he ain't gonna own the land." Small gestures from big, hard hands convey more feeling than a senator's arm-waving. "They've pushed us into a little corner. Now they are trying to push us off it."

Opposition

The conflict between a developer's vision of a haven for wealthy world-class windsurfers and the River People's fishing culture has drawn into sharp focus the often indistinct threats that a frenzy of recreation-oriented development poses for traditional cultures already under enormous duress. The eleventh-hour occupation was a deliberate response to a desperate situation, a step outside the system by people who have not seen their interests protected by local, state, federal, and tribal governments.

The community that has formed to support the occupation offers hope. Among the strongest non-native supporters of the Lyle Point occupation are local environmental activists, who decry the utter lack of protection for a unique place with outstanding natural, historical, and cultural values. The common cause is understood—no one tries to distinguish the rights of Native peoples from those of the bald eagles who also fish here. Other residents, short-term and long-time alike, have come forward to share their dismay at the blistering pace of windsurfer-driven gentrification and the monumental arrogance of carpetbagging developers. There is still hope that *this* fight, at least, might yet be won, that lawsuits and injunctions could secure a little justice for a people and a place so long on the taking end of empire.

The Yakima Nation and the Columbia Gorge Audubon Society have each filed lawsuits challenging the Klickitat County Commission's approval of Spencer's plans for Lyle Point. On December 2, after more than two months of occupation, the Palmers, Klickitat Chief Johnny Jackson, and about two hundred supporters went to the state capitol in Olympia, seeking help from Washington Governor Mike Lowry and the state's congressional delegation. Demonstrators covered the steps of the state Capitol and had audiences with the various functionaries available. No easy resolution is yet in sight.

The defenders of Lyle Point have asked for help. They need people to join them on the site, supplies of food, warm clothes, tarps and wood for the encampment, money for lawyers, and pressure on Mike Lowry, Governor of Washington. You can contact the Palmers and their supporters at POB 536, Lyle, WA 98635, or (509) 365-2287.

Don't Strip Mine Our National Forests!

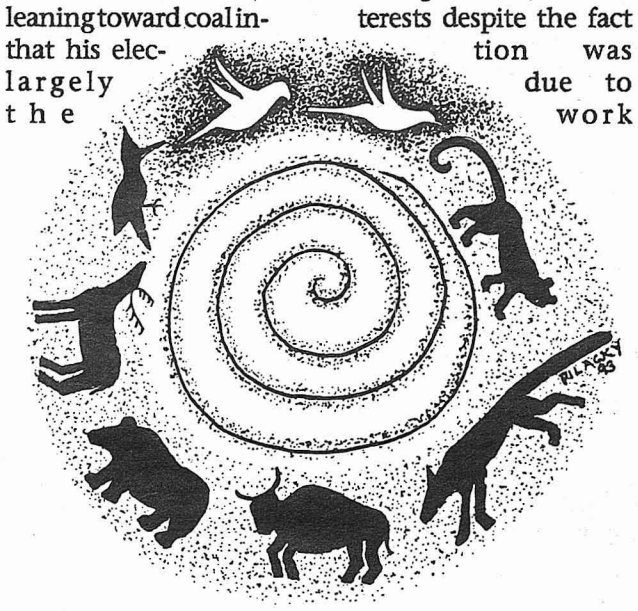
BY JOE HAZELBAKER

The forest is logged, the area bulldozed. Dynamite, D-9s, and draglines tear wounds 100 feet deep, hundreds of yards wide, and a quarter mile long into what was once the forest floor. Streams, once clear, run brown, then turn an insidious orange. These are the fortunate ones—other streams are completely obliterated. Haul trucks trudge through orange and gray mud, bogged down by their heavy loads. They carry high-sulfur coal freshly torn from the earth and heading to a local power plant. All to fuel our society's fossil fuel addiction. Scenes like this mar private lands throughout southern Ohio and the rest of Appalachia. Now, if a large mining company gets its way and federal agencies refuse to do anything about it, they could scar our national forests across the heartland.

On July 26, 1993 the 6th Circuit Court of Appeals in Cincinnati, Ohio, ruled that Belville Mining Company of Ironton, Ohio, has the right to stripmine 1,800 acres of the Wayne National Forest. They are due to receive their permit within a month for the first 80 acres, known as the Jenkins Tract, from the Division of Reclamation (an arm of the Ohio Dept. of Natural Resources) within a month. Although the judges gave Belville the rights to the tract, they also showed how that right was erroneously granted in the first place. Because the Department of Justice, acting on behalf of the Office of Surface Mining (OSM) and the US Forest Service, did not challenge this particular issue, the judges could only bring it up as a point of interest, and could not consider it in their decision.

What the judges found was particular language in the deed that conveyed the right to mine to the subsurface rights owner. The language states that the subsurface rights holder could only have the right to surface mine if that holder had mined for at least 100 days per year for five years prior to 1989 to commercial advantage. Belville did not meet the requirements because they never mined the area. However, the OSM erroneously granted this right on the premise that Belville had requested a determination for Valid Existing Rights (VER) prior to the '89 deadline. The OSM subsequently reversed its decision, but the damage was done; Belville immediately filed suit and won. The court said that the OSM couldn't change its mind. The government appealed, and when all was said and done Belville got 1,800 acres and several million tons of coal, while the forest got the shaft.

Pressure must be focused upon the Office of Surface Mining, the Secretary of the Interior, and Representative Ted Strickland (the local congressman, who is leaning toward coal interests despite the fact that his election was largely due to the work of local environmental activists) to enforce the language of the deed. Persistent public pressure can change the fate of this 80 acres of mature hardwood forest.



EXTINCT AND EXTIRPATED - OHIO

The remaining 1,720 acres have equal potential to be protected. The court's decision was not unanimous. Judge Alice Batchelder dissented from the inaccurate opinion of her colleagues. While agreeing with the points above, Batchelder laid down her case against Belville, backed up by years of case law. If Belville attempts to mine these areas, it is very probable that we can win a lawsuit based on the information in this dissenting opinion. In fact, it is vital that we win. The decision that stands sets a horrible precedent for mining the Wayne and other eastern national forests with outstanding mineral rights. By establishing new case law we can reverse this precedent.

There are also other routes we can take to see that public land is protected in the future from strip mining. First of all we need to see that a responsible person with an appropriate background is appointed as chief of the Office of Surface Mining. Traditionally coal industry tycoons and OSM higher-ups have been interchangeable. The Secretary of Interior, in keeping with tradition, has nominated Robert Uram, a corporate lawyer for coal companies, for this position. Please write a personal letter to the Clinton administration and/or Senator Howard Metzenbaum requesting them to intervene in the nomination. Second, we need to see that this chief officially defines the meaning of Valid Existing Rights. An appropriate definition would only grant VER to rights owners who had permits in place in 1977, the year the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act (SMCRA) was passed. The lack of a clear, appropriate definition of VER in the original version of SMCRA has created many of the problems leading to the current situation. Both strategies are important in the overall protection of public lands from the ravages of strip mining.

On November 18, a demonstration was held at the Federal Building in Columbus, Ohio to bring attention to this issue the feds would just as soon sweep under the rug. Twenty-five activists from three states and a stripped mime converged on the building. More actions are planned.

We are fortunate that we have so many opportunities before us to see that our national forests are permanently safe from strip mining. However, it will take public pressure and persistence on our part to take advantage of these opportunities. Together we can protect the Wayne National Forest.

For more info, call Joe Hazelbaker at (614) 459-0675.

"Never underestimate the power of the individual."

FIGHTING FOREST SPRAYING IN NOVA SCOTIA

BY DAVID ORTON

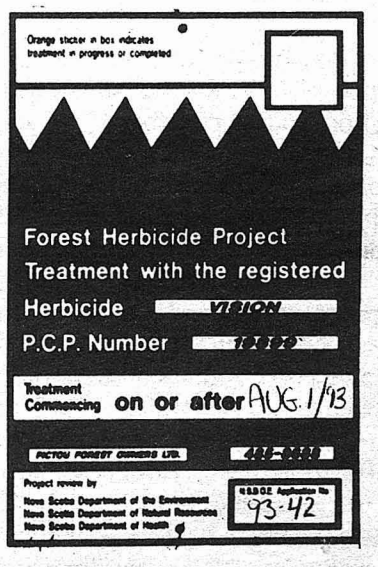
In Nova Scotia the struggle against the use of pesticides (biocides) on forests has been going on since the early 1970s. Every year, from Yarmouth to Cape Breton, depending on the declared "threat" to the forests, there are demonstrations, meetings and protests against spraying programs. Past activities by anti-spray activists have included pulling up softwood plantation seedlings, blockades, the exposure of fraudulent scientific claims, appeals to local politicians, court cases, token environmental representation on pesticide user committees, etc.

The latest development in the story is the introduction of biological controls—nematodes, bacteria, fungi, viruses, and genetically engineered organisms. We are informed by Forestry Canada, the federal forestry agency, that "environmentally acceptable pest control systems based primarily on biological systems will allow for the removal of classical pesticides from forestry practice." Nematodes have recently been released on plantation sites to "control" the seedling debarking weevil and they are being used against the spruce bud moth in white spruce plantations in New Brunswick. The use of biological controls is no advance in environmental consciousness, but a continued attempt to control nature for anthropocentric industrial interests, with ecological costs yet to be calculated.

It is fairly routine for some 80% of the people in a rural community to sign petitions asking that a particular spraying program be stopped. Forest spraying is being imposed without popular consent. Political or social pressure in communities has sometimes stopped *particular* spraying programs or brought about the "concession" of an aerial spray operation turned into ground spraying. The more natural forests are "intensive managed" for the pulp and paper industry, the more "controls" are needed to protect softwood trees growing in even-aged tree plantations. This situation invites a discussion about the fundamental nature of capitalist industrial society, and the need for alternatives for ecological and social survival.

Many rural people see their health and water supplies directly threatened, as woodlots adjacent to their homes are sprayed and the spray drifts onto their land. Others, while agreeing with human-centered concerns, also oppose spraying on biocentric grounds—that all plant and animal life in the forest has a right to a non-poisoned existence. The issues are much larger than whether a particular chemical is "safe" or not. Undermining and exposing the false claims of pesticide propaganda are crucial for gaining public support.

Agriculture Canada, the federal government agency which licenses pesticides and promotes their use in farming, has a toll-free number (800-267-6315), well publicized by the forest sprayers and their allies. The public is invited to call for reassurance on any pesticides used in Canada. The usual line is "the pesticide is registered by the federal government and if used according to label instructions, it is safe."


Orange sticker in box indicates treatment in progress or completed
Forest Herbicide Project
Treatment with the registered
Herbicide VISION
P.C.P. Number
Treatment Commencing on or after AUG. 1/93
PICTOU FOREST OWNERS LTD.
Project review by
Nova Scotia Department of the Environment
Nova Scotia Department of Natural Resources
Nova Scotia Department of Health
93-42

The Nova Scotia forestry spraying program today is mainly an herbicide program. There are currently five chemical herbicides approved for use in forestry. The forestry herbicide of choice in Nova Scotia and across Canada is Vision or glyphosate, made by Monsanto.

Any pesticide information made available to the public is promotional, company-generated, and normally *only concerns the active ingredient.* Other information is considered confidential. For example, while the herbicide *Vision* has the active ingredient glyphosate, it makes up only 41% of the formula. To understand the toxicity of Vision or any other pesticide, one must consider the *full formulation,* including the inert ingredients. Inerts can be harmless fillers, but are often poisonous in their own right or enhance the toxicity of the active ingredient. There can also be contaminants from the production of a pesticide, plus breakdown products and added unknown ingredients (for example, defoamers in Vision).

In Pictou County in the summer of 1993, the one-sidedness of pesticide information and the opposition to clearcutting were successfully brought out. A demonstration was held against forest spraying and the forest management group, Pictou Forest Owners. A fiery and successful public meeting was organized in August in the farming and forestry community of Scotsburn, protesting pesticide use and forestry practices in local woodlands. More than 100 people attended, including a contingent from the forest industry. The local newspaper, the New Glasgow *Evening News,* usually a mouthpiece of the forest industry, even wrote an editorial after this meeting, under the headline, "Spraying concerns are legitimate"!

David Orton is a prolific green writer working hard and late in the far reaches of Nova Scotia. For more information, or to get involved, write to him at Green Web, R.R. #3, Saltsprings, Pictou County, Nova Scotia B0K 1P0 Canada; phone/fax (902) 925-2514; e-mail greenweb@web.apc.org.

Idaho's Wolves, Wilderness, and Worries

BY RON CONSTABLE

The Rocky Mountain gray wolf has been listed under the Endangered Species Act (ESA) as endangered since 1973. Now, over 20 years later, we see that the US Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) has finally come up with a plan to reintroduce the wolf to part of its rightful home, and "delist" the wolf from the ESA. The plan is to capture 30 wild wolves from Canadian packs every year and release them into two proposed recovery areas, Yellowstone National Park and central Idaho, until wild wolf populations are established in these areas. They suggest it will take three to five years to complete the plan. The captured wolves would be radio-collared and branded as a "non-essential, experimental population" which basically means they will lose protection under the ESA. The plan allows land owners to "harass" wolves on private land, welfare ranchers to "harass" wolves on public land, and for these ranchers even to kill wolves under certain conditions. Ranchers would also be compensated for livestock losses.

The plan doesn't stop there in its backwards bend for wolf opponents. There would be no land use (logging, mining, road building, grazing) restrictions for wolves and the plan also would "designate all wolves in the experimental areas as experimental animals once reintroduced wolves are released." So naturally recovered wolves would lose ESA protection and become "non-essential" animals. Canadian packs would be disrupted and harassed, and 30 shocked, disoriented wolves would be released, unprotected, into the loving arms of the citizenry of Idaho, Montana and Wyoming, where most struggle to beat their neighbors to pull the trigger. If this plan succeeds in "delisting" the wolf it probably won't be due to the establishment of a viable population, but to the wolf's extinction.

The FWS biologists' opinion that 90-150 wolves (plus wolves that have naturally recovered) will constitute a viable population is questionable. Under genetic constraints alone a population this size would fail. Biologists estimate a minimum of 500 individuals is needed to overcome inbreeding and genetic factors that can drive a population to extinction. This figure disregards demographic and environmental factors (and, in the case of our wolves, illegal poaching and proposed legal "taking" of the "non-essential" animals) which would necessitate a much larger population. The proposal also drops current land use restrictions and ESA measures which would only improve the population. It would make migrations to and from the Canadian population centers increasingly difficult and further degrade wolf habitat, thus putting additional stresses on an already overstressed population.

Three components are essential to wolf habitat: a sufficient year-round prey base, secluded denning and rendezvous sites, and sufficient space and minimal exposure to humans. With road construction and logging undermining these three components in most roadless areas of the Idaho recovery zone, suitable habitat would shrink and migratory corridors would be severed, spelling disaster for these wolves. The FWS plan may placate some wolf opponents and satisfy some of the mainstream wolf groups but it will not help wolves to recover. So what is the point?

The point is politics, where the real worry lies. Two elements of the FWS proposal scare me the most; no land use restrictions and designation of all wolves in the recovery areas as "experimental" animals. We've seen how this will affect wolves, but how will this affect de facto wilderness areas in central Idaho? For a tough but honest answer, examine the RARE II areas on the Nez Perce National Forest.

There are 15 roadless areas on the Nez Perce, representing over half a million acres of wilderness. Many of these areas are contiguous to congressionally-designated wilderness or are corridors, linking up the six million acre Greater Salmon-Selway Ecosystem, the largest existing wilderness in the temperate US. The RARE II areas on the Nez Perce are crucial to any type of landscape level conservation; crucial to large ecological processes and large predators, forest interior species, and big wilderness in the lower 48. There have been wolf sightings in nearly all of these areas and they are all potential wolf habitat; areas which biologists T. Kaminski and J. Hansen called "key" to wolf recovery in their 1984 research report. All of these roadless areas on the Nez Perce are scheduled for road construction and logging operations.

Activists have stopped development in the Nez Perce's RARE II areas in the past by citing violations of the ESA for impacts the development would have on gray wolves. The highly-contested Cove/Mallard timber sale is in the courts again and the lawsuit aiming to stop it will cite impacts to the endangered gray wolf.

Politics. Spotted owl forests are bound to get some protection. Where will the lost cut be made up? Private lands are pretty well drained here in the northern Rockies. Where will the lost board feet come from? IS the purpose of the FWS plan to restore the wolf, or is it to ready public lands for more abuse? Is the proposal's purpose to obey environmental law? Or is it to keep the logs flowing out of our national forests? Anyone who has ever worked with a land management agency knows the answers.

Oppose this plan by all available means. Don't let wolves and the wilderness die.

The People's Court—Cove/Mallard Style

BY *UNCLE* RAMON

The problem today, class, is how to describe the recent week-long trial of 15 activists in Federal Court in Moscow, Idaho. Watching (and being part of, as a co-defendant) the process was a bit like watching a boa constrictor eat a 40-pound pig; it's interesting enough, but you wouldn't want to describe the gruesome details to your Aunt Mabel over Xmas dinner.

So, in the interest of brevity (the transcript runs probably hundreds of pages) and sloth, your loyal, but otherwise worthless, scribe will tackle the issue semi-squarely and hope that a random sample of quotable quotes, from both sides of the bar, will impart the flavor of the event.....

Prosecutor: "What name did defendant Brown give you, officer?" Idaho County Officer Mealer: "Fuck you." Prosecutor: "I beg your pardon?" Officer: "He said his name was 'Fuck You.'" Prosecutor: "I see. What did you do then?" Officer: "I nicknamed him 'Chainsaw' and placed him under arrest."

Defendant Neil (during his turn as pro se lawyer, wandering around the courtroom like Perry Mason, if Perry Mason wore dreadlocks): "I call Mother Nature to the stand." Judge: "Call another witness." Neil: "I wish to subpoena Forest Service ex-chief Dale Robertson." Judge: "Are you finished?"

Defendant Hunter: "Your honor, in relation to the charge of placing obstructions in the road, I call your attention to Government exhibit # 6-21. Please note that in the photograph that I am in the supine position and in a physical state that could be described as barely approaching consciousness." Defendant Donovan: "I object, your honor. He didn't place anything in the road because he's just plain lazy!" (Note: Hunter beat the "obstruction" charge on the grounds, said the judge later, that he clearly was just plain lazy.)

Defendent Spencer: "I object to the introduction of Government exhibit # 6-28." Judge: "On what grounds?" Spencer: "On the grounds that it is not a very good photograph of me."

Local reporter: "Wally, why are you wearing a backless, purple cocktail dress in Court?" Wally: "I got tired of wearing the same skirt and blouse after 3 days." Reporter: "I thought you had only one outfit. Where'd you get it?" Wally: "I borrowed it. From Wade."

On a serious note, all the defendants (except your loyal scribe who hid behind his lawyer's robes) gave eloquent and passionate testimony on behalf of the wild lands and creatures of Cove/Mallard. We can't possibly print (or even recall) every one of them, so this is just a taste....

Vera N.: "A radical is defined, in Webster, as someone who goes directly to the root of a problem. But how can you solve any problem without going to the root?"

Karen C.: "The court system strips the average individual of the ability to defend him/herself, because the court never considers the 'why' of human events. Motive is crucial."

Michelle H.: "My purpose in being there on August 17 was to break the law in an action of direct civil disobedience. I'm not above the law; I'm just an earthling."

Then, Hunter (again): "I'll be in Eugene, Oregon, your honor, and can do my community service there. I'd like to work with the homeless." Erik (from the gallery): "Hunter, you *are* the homeless!" Hunter: "I know."

In closing arguments, your L.B.O.W. scribe's lawyer, Robert V., drew parallels to the Boston Tea Party and analogies to Alexander Hamilton and Aaron Burr. To the Prosecutor's assertion that we were criminals, he wondered aloud at what point in history the "criminals" of the integration actions in Alabama became the heroes of the Civil Rights Movement. Finally, paraphrasing Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., he said: "Perhaps it's time to let freedom ring from the mountains and valleys of Cove/Mallard."

Pro bono attorney Michael H. stated that a "guilty" verdict will tell the US Forest Service that it is OK to:

A) close areas of the Forest at will, thus keeping out people of good will and good faith who merely are trying to document Forest Service violations,

B) mace people,

C) use pain holds, even when totally unnecessary, and

d) not be accountable for their actions.

On the other hand, a "not guilty" verdict will tell the Forest Service exactly the opposite and it will tell these protesters that there is hope within the system.

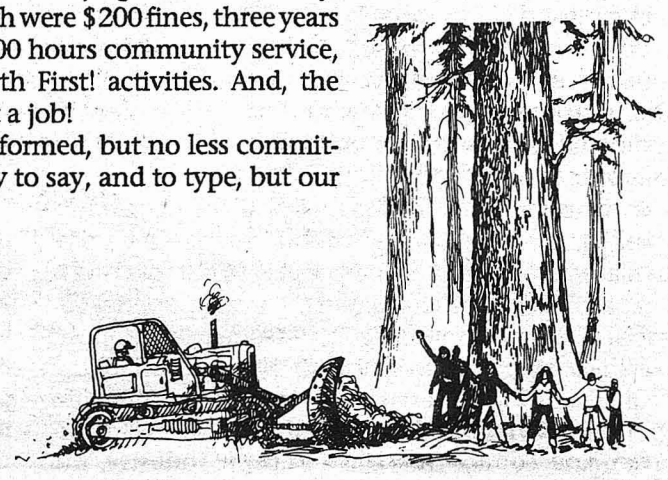
After five looong days, Judge Lodge took center stage: in a lengthy and thoughtful speech, he stated often that he never doubted our sincerity or our dedication to our cause, and he praised our forthrightness. Then he did what he had to do under the law: he found us guilty of violating the Forest Service closure order. Guilty of placing obstructions, including our bodies, in the road (except for Hunter—see above). Innocent, however, of resisting arrest (except for Wally, a non-violence trainer, for Pete's sake).

At sentencing, the US Attorney tried to single out a few of the more "visible" activists for harsh treatment, including jail time, but the judge wouldn't have any of it.

What we ended up with were $200 fines, three years probation (ouch), and 200 hours community service, not connected with Earth First! activities. And, the unkindest cut of all—get a job!

We're somewhat transformed, but no less committed. These words are easy to say, and to type, but our actions in the future will speak to their sincerity. Meanwhile, everyone involved is urged to stay the course. Hang in there. Keep up the fight. Shoulders back, chests out, all that rot.

Me, I'm going to Baja.



Fight Back Against Furrier Propaganda

BY J.P. GOODWIN AND NANCE MCGILLICUDDY

Over the past few months, the fur industry, from retail outlets to trade groups to trappers, have united in a multimillion-dollar advertising campaign to convince the public that wearing fur is once again acceptable. Perhaps the most insidious new claim made by the industry is that fur is "the Natural Choice" and is "among nature's most ecologically sound products." Like many recent wise use propaganda efforts, groups such as the Fur Farm Animal Welfare Coalition (FFAWC) seek to play upon average people's environmental concerns to maintain their profits.

photo by Fur-Bearer Defenders

While most of us are aware of the treatment furbearers undergo in traps and on fur ranches, there has been less attention given to the ecological effects of fur production. For more than 200 years, furriers have been waging war against American wildlife and damaging regional ecosystems. Most predators on the eastern seaboard were wiped out by 1800, due in part to relentless trapping to meet European demand. In the West, trappers of the Missouri Fur Trading Company, the Rocky Mountain Fur Trading Company, the American Fur Trading Company and others pushed beavers toward extinction until beaver hats went out of fashion in the 1840s. In similar fashion, mink, marten, and other species were severely depleted from their previous populations and their habitat areas were reduced well into the twentieth century.

The practice of fur farming, which caught on in the 1920s, led to importation of exotic animals like the nutria, which is currently ravaging wetlands in Louisiana.

Today, fur farms produce mass quantities of animal waste that can lead to water pollution in several ways. If the farm is near a stream, rain can wash the excrement into the water, contaminating it. When dumped in high concentrations, excessive nitrates soak into the soil and pollute groundwater. This has been a concern of the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, and the FFAWC, the group that produces the Natural Choice brochure, has even gone as far as lobbying governments in the Great Lakes region to lower water quality standards to help fur ranchers. Disposal of animal carcasses can cause similar problems.

Trapping disrupts animal populations by manipulating predator/prey relationships. During each trapping season, many predators are removed from local ecosystems. This can lead to overpopulation of various prey species which in turn overeat vegetation in the area. By stimulating the rate of birth of targeted animals, trapping changes the age dynamics of furbearers. This leaves furbearer populations more susceptible to disease and more likely to cause crop damage.

Non-targeted animals are also killed in large numbers by trappers, who refer to them as "trash" animals. While it is impossible to get statistics on non-targeted animals killed by individual trappers, it is well known that monitored trapping, such as that done by the Animal Damage Control, kills endangered species, domestic animals, and thousands of others. It is certainly reasonable to expect that fur trapping has similar results. Trapping is currently threatening some populations of bobcats in the Northwest, and trappers have fought hard to stop any protective regulations from being placed on this species.

Formaldehyde and other carcinogenic chemicals are used in the processing of fur coats. The Environmental Protection Agency "found total non-compliance with hazardous waste regulations" among fur processing plants, according to North-East Regional Administrator Constantine Sidamon-Eristoff. Kim Helper, also with the EPA, claimed that wastes from fur processing plants "may cause respiratory problems, and are listed as possible carcinogens." These statements were made after the EPA fined two fur processors a combined total of $1.5 million for ignoring environmental regulations.

Lastly, vast amounts of fuel are used in the production of fur coats. A study by the Ford Motor Company(!) found that the production of a wild fur required three times the energy used to produce a synthetic coat. This came after calculating skinning, pelt drying, transport to shipping point and auction center, processing, and manufacturing. Fur farming, which requires the production of feed, cages, and so on, is much worse in terms of energy expended. An astonishing 66 times more energy goes into a farmed fur coat than a synthetic coat, and even more than that for fabric coats.

The fur industry is environmentally unsound, and viciously cruel to many species of furbearers. Any time the furriers try to jump on the environmental bandwagon, we must be prepared to shove them off.

J.P. Goodwin works with the Animal Protection Association and lives in Memphis, Tennessee. Nance McGillicuddy is a wilderness defender living in Santa Clara County, California.

For a list of sources for this article or more information on the US fur industry, send a dollar and a self-addressed stamped envelope to J.P. Goodwin, c/o Animal Protection Association, 5810 Stage Road, Suite 2A, Bartlett, TN 38134.

ALF Grand Juries Continue

Or, I Thought I Was Awake but I Couldn't Shake the Suits

BY DEB STOUT

It's been a long year and a half, my friends... 18 months of early-morning visits, threats and intimidation, hair samples and foot measurements, three incarcerations and one indictment.

We thought it would be over. We weathered it out, looking forward to making plans when the investigations were over and we could continue with our lives. Maybe we could even visit friends and renew friendships forced into the closet by fear of exposure and incrimination.

We were naive.

The recurring grand jury nightmare has only just begun.

In Michigan, one grand jury expired—their 18 months were up. Before it was over, though, they issued an indictment for Rod Coronado on five separate charges ranging from interstate travel to commit a felony, to setting a fire to destroy animal research. It made them look good and gave them a reason to continue the investigation, so a whole new grand jury was impaneled. Things so far, though, have been quiet... no new subpeonas, no nothing. Disturbing.

In Spokane, shit continues to hit the fan. Kim Trimiew was jailed in early October and released after three weeks pending appeal. Her appeal revolved around the fact that, as a target of the grand jury in more than one district, immunity from testimony could not be guaranteed. A three-judge panel in the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals denied the appeal. Since so far the US Attorney has declined to imprison her she is still out. The grand jury in Spokane expired on December 7th, but the rumor is they're impaneling a whole new grand jury. The state is so predictable.

What does that mean for Kim? It means that most likely by the time you read this she'll be back in the big house.

And for the rest of us, it means another 18 months of watching, listening and waiting for the indictments to come down.

And what about the animals... I often wonder what it means to them.

(The nuts and bolts of support work for Kim—visitors travel costs, books and collect calls—are being financed by the National Activist Network. Any donation, big or small, to help out her support... mainly me... would be greatly appreciated. You can reach NAN at POB 19515, Sacramento, CA 95819.)

California Fires

Continued from page 5

Two to four years from now deerweed, a nitrogen-fixing shrub of the legume family, will likely dominate. Deerweed converts the nutrients of the ashes into usable form for the plants to follow as well as providing a nutritious snack for herbivores.

In five to ten years the land will again resemble its pre-fire form. South facing slopes will increasingly be dominated by drought-deciduous shrubs and succulents, such as prickly pear cactus, buckwheat and sages. North-facing slopes will likely be dominated by evergreen shrubs, such as laurel sumac, scrub oak, toyon and lemonade berry. In coastal sage scrub, the initial wave of annuals will have mostly died off with increasing canopy cover. A new wave of annuals begins to appear, however, and species richness continues to climb until 20-30 years after the fire.

Forty years after a fire plant diversity is greatly reduced; a few shrubs dominate with almost no understory herb content. Some ecologists even consider areas like this senescent; a community in decline until fire once again renews the cycle of succession.

The Upshot

In order to protect coastal sage scrub and the species within it, fire must be accounted for. Repeated fires can convert coastal sage scrub to grassland, while a lapse in the fire cycle might see the opposite phenomenon. The landscape must be seen as an interconnected mosaic of habitats dependent on each other.

Simply delineating boundaries around coastal sage scrub will not work. Vast areas, *in fact every undeveloped area left in southern California,* must be protected so that the interplay of natural succession has room to take place. In addition, restoration of disturbed lands needs to occur to upgrade linkages. No more "islands"! This will become increasingly critical as the effects of global warming are felt, and plant communities attempt to migrate with changing conditions.

The need for large landscape linkages is further enforced by the serious loss of gnatcatcher and cactus wren populations from the fire. The loss is not simply one of numbers—genetic variability was also lost with the fires, and with it potential adaptability to future conditions.

Write the Fish and Wildlife Service, and demand that the coastal cactus wren be emergency listed as an endangered species (the deadline for action on the petition for listing for this species is long past), and that the California gnatcatcher have its listing upgraded from "threatened" to "endangered." While you're at it, mention that the Natural Communities Conservation Process is a failure and should be abandoned.

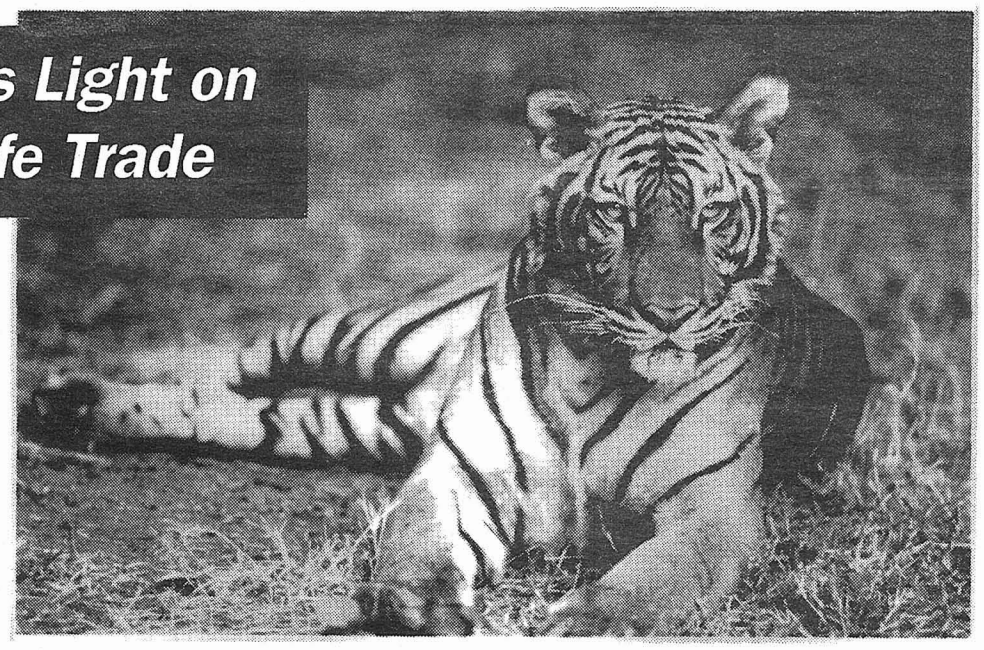
Not one more acre for fucking subdivisions!

Contact:

Jeffrey Opdycke, Field Supervisor, US Fish and Wildlife Service, 2730 Loker Avenue West, Carlsbad, CA 92008; Bruce Babbitt, Secretary of the Interior, 18th & C Streets, NW, Washington DC 20240.

Unmade in Taiwan:

Endangered Species Project Sheds Light on the Black Hole of the Illegal Wildlife Trade



BY SAMUEL LABUDDE

Standing before the "Chinese Institute for Poisonous Snake Research" in Taipei, one might expect something quite different. But beyond the front table where scores of reptiles from southeast Asia are nightly slung up and slit end to end in order to drain their blood and make "tea," the "Institute" is only a typical Chinese lunch counter serving noodles and the local version of coca-cola.

In the carnival-like atmosphere of "Snake Alley," where families stroll as in an American shopping mall, are dozens of other shops specializing in one aspect or another of the wildlife trade. Some display captive orangutans who smoke cigarettes and chew tobacco, others sell knicknacks, jewelry and garments made from elephant and walrus ivory, coral, turtle shell, bear claws and leopard skins. But commerce in the Alley is dominated by a dozen open-air shops that slice open live snakes and squeeze their blood into shot glasses or pitchers of dark tea for sale to the public.

Taiwan has one of the world's highest per capita incomes, so it is no surprise that the average citizen of Taipei, the capital, takes such luxuries as sports cars, personal computers and cellular telephones for granted. This same prosperity, however, also fuels a market for a more unsettling list of consumer goods: aphrodisiacs and headache powders made from rhino horn, gourmet meals of tiger and bear meat, panda skin rugs—essentially a whole smorgasbord of products derived from rare and endangered wildlife.

The neon-lit, industrialized capital of Taiwan is the headquarters for much of the nation's manufacturing based economy. Industry—producing everything from electronic components and appliances to bicycles and tennis shoes, mostly for overseas markets—has made Taiwan a prosperous land, a land where anything can be bought. But for the world's wildlife, the Taiwanese appetite for the rare and exotic is buying many wildlife species express-lane tickets to extinction.

Earth Island Institute's Endangered Species Project (ESP), in association with the Environmental Investigation Agency, Earthtrust and Tiger Trust UK, recently completed an 18-month undercover investigation into southeast Asia's illegal wildlife trade. With the help of nearly a dozen investigators and additional support from Taiwanese environmentalists, ESP was able to document Taiwan's central role in the trafficking of virtually every species indigenous to the region, as well as other species from as far away as Africa and the USA.

Although illegal trade in endangered species and fauna ostensibly protected in their native lands is not limited to Taiwan, the Taiwanese have done for the wildlife trade what they have also managed to do for their manufacturing industry—raise it to a level of market intensity and competitiveness unrivaled in the world.

Taipei's Hidden Markets

In this modern cityscape dominated by symbols of international commerce—shining corporate office buildings and construction sites where workers pour concrete for a new multi-billion-dollar elevated railway—our investigation uncovered business of a vastly different nature. While the highly westernized Taiwanese have cast off virtually every other vestige of what was once traditional Chinese culture, Taiwan's wildlife trade survives as an anachronistic cultural holdover that has outlived feudalism, the god-emperor, Mao and even Communist China itself.

In Taipei alone are hundreds of "apothecaries"—essentially small folk medicine pharmacies—that stock and sell rhino horn from Africa, tiger bone from India and bear gall from the United States. In all of Taiwan, an island nation of 20 million only one and a half times the size of Vermont, there are nearly 14,000 such pharmacies. Of 135 pharmacies recently surveyed in Taipei by Earthtrust, stocks of tiger bone were found in two out of every three. A study released last year by TRAFFIC International estimated that 77% of Taiwan's apothecaries—10,500 shops—stock rhino horn.

There are also taxidermy shops which provide hides, skulls and entire animals for collectors, and restaurants that offer rare and exotic dishes prepared from endangered species. And binding it all together are legions of unrepentant wildlife smugglers, buyers, speculators and consumers of species that will soon be extinct. The Taiwanese market is nothing less than the terminus for a deadly and illegal trade that could by itself cause the extinction of tigers in the wild in the next ten years.

Wildlife Safari—Taiwan Style

Taiwan boasts a level of intimacy with wildlife that is unrivaled anywhere in the world. In Snake Alley, showmen openly hawk bottles of wine distilled from tiger bones, and routinely offer concoctions of snake and tiger blood for enhancement of male sexuality. One shop even offers live demonstrations of the blood's alleged effect on male virility by directing clients to step behind a partition where one can observe lovers engaged in "tiger-enhanced coitus."

For weary businessmen in the mood for a little romantic dining, ESP's cameras zeroed in on a Taipei restaurant specializing in such exotic dishes as tiger penis soup (by advance reservation only, minimum party of ten, cost: $3,200). The manager of the establishment, where dinner for a party of 12 can run $20,000, openly talked of importing up to two dozen tiger penises a year from Hong Kong, and was proud to have her current inventory of four dried tiger penises committed to videotape. Displayed on the premises in a glass case, the penises were enshrined on brightly colored fabric along with other exotic "foods" including glands from the rare and endangered musk deer (also supposedly banned from trade under Taiwanese law).

Outside of Taipei the situation is just as bad. The inside of one shop in Tainan is reported to be the front operation for the second biggest ivory smuggling ring in the world. The facility resembles a gargantuan funeral home for elephants. In a room the size of a barn, thousands of ivory carvings and sets of tusks line display cases or sit atop carved tables and stands. In Tainan and elsewhere in Taiwan, African and Asian rhino horn is displayed as prominently as possible to lure potential customers inside, where merchandise from dozens of other species line the walls.

Where Have All the Tigers Gone?

Since the turn of the century, the world's tiger populations have shrunk from more than 100,000 to only 5,000. Only five of the world's eight tiger species remain, the other three having disappeared in the last 50 years through habitat loss and trophy hunting. Now, despite years of intense conservation work in India and other countries to preserve the remaining species, the China tiger is all but gone. The Siberian (or Amur) tiger, the world's largest feline, numbers no more than 200 in the wild; there are more Siberian tigers confined in the world's zoos than living in the wild. This ominous trend recently moved International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Chairman Peter Jackson to warn, "Virtual extinction of the tiger in the next ten years cannot be ruled out."

Where have all the tigers gone? They are being killed to supply the East Asian wildlife trade that is headquartered in Taiwan. As the IUCN's Cat Specialist Group concluded at their November, 1992, meeting in New Delhi, "the demand for bones for Chinese medicine, rather than furs, is now the driving force for poaching." Some tigers are actually taken alive for sale to Chinese and Taiwanese speculators who in turn sell the whiskers, eyes, blood, bones, organs and other parts to practitioners of folk medicine.

Indochina's last surviving tigers are also being slaughtered, to sate the appetites of wealthy Korean, Japanese and Taiwanese tourists in such vacation playgrounds as Phuket in Thailand and Ho Chi Minh City (Saigon) in Viet Nam. Because China has reduced its once 40,000-strong population of four tiger species to just two species numbering less than 100 individuals, traders have tuned to India's parks and reserves and to Siberia and Indochina to meet the demand. India's much vaunted Bengal tiger reserves are now under assault from poachers who strike and head north to the Chinese border, carrying tiger bones and pelts bundled up in sacks like so much firewood.

A single tiger can fetch up to $45,000, with every part—meat, eyes, blood, claws, fat, stomach, intestines, bile, nose, whiskers and even feces—allegedly useful in traditional lore for some sort of medicinal, sexual, emotional or theological remedy. Tiger bone powder is sold as a pain killer, whiskers are acquired as protective charms, tails are used to make a skin disease ointment and the brains are advertised as a cure for acne.

Prepackaged tiger bone products are manufactured in both China and Taiwan. At least twenty-four different businesses in China export preparations of tiger bone tablets, wine and powders to Taiwan. These potions are advertised as a cure for rheumatism, apoplexy, paralysis, pain, kidney and liver problems, poor blood circulation, weak tendons and bones, congestion, heart conditions and demonic possession.

Tigers and other wildlife are not used just for traditional medicine. There is also the custom of "jinbu" wherein the quality of what is consumed is allegedly imparted to the consumer. This "you are what you eat" belief accounts for the abiding practice of consuming tiger eyeballs in order to gain the night vision of the tiger.

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Smuggler's Paradise

The wildlife trade in Taiwan is not just a sideline—it is a major industry with a sprawling global network of supply lines that reaches around the world. Those items which cannot be secured by post or via personal travel are supplied by widespread smuggling operations that service Taiwan's ports. Traffic across the Taiwan Straits from mainland China is heavy, and vessels laden with wildlife regularly travel to the island from ports like Singapore and Hong Kong, as well as from numerous coastal cities in Vietnam, Malaysia, the Philippines, Indonesia and Thailand.

The evidence of Taiwan's involvement in the trade is so overwhelming that one can only surmise that the government's role is one of collusion or complete indifference. Shops stocking tiger bone are located just minutes from the main offices of the Council of Agriculture (COA), the government agency charged with enforcing bans on such products. ESP investigators found bear gall priced at $10,000/kilo and discovered abundant rhino horn, despite numerous government pledges to crack down on the trade. ESP also documented numerous shops trafficking in body parts from monkeys, pangolins, sea turtles, leopards and snakes. One Taipei shop owner jokingly proclaimed that "the only thing with four legs that a Taiwanese won't eat is a chair".

Evidence of Taiwan's public acceptance of this illegal trade is everywhere apparent. An article published in one Taiwanese trade magazine in 1980 reported the importation of 2,000 kilos of tiger bone annually to produce 100,000 bottles of wine. To put this in perspective, 2,000 kilos (4,400 pounds) of bone is the equivalent of 160 live tigers. And while government representatives decry the existence of any problem, one has only to seek out the local pharmacy to see that Taiwan remains the ultimate laissez faire market for wildlife.

Taiwan's Wildlife Farms

Taiwan never had native tigers. It now boasts more tigers in captivity than can be found in all of mainland China. There are at least a dozen "tiger farms" scattered across Taiwan, stocked with live cats smuggled from Indonesia, Sumatra, China and Viet Nam, their hybrid offspring fattened and slaughtered to meet local demand. The farms' owners breed these animals to cash in on lucrative black market demand.

When local journalists asked the Minister of Taiwan's COA about the number of captive tigers in Taiwan, he stated that there were no more than 30. Independent surveys by Earthtrust, however, have documented more than 80 captive tigers in Taiwan, and established the presence of other "farms" holding additional tigers. The owner of one farm claimed that there were 200 to 300 captive tigers in Taiwan.

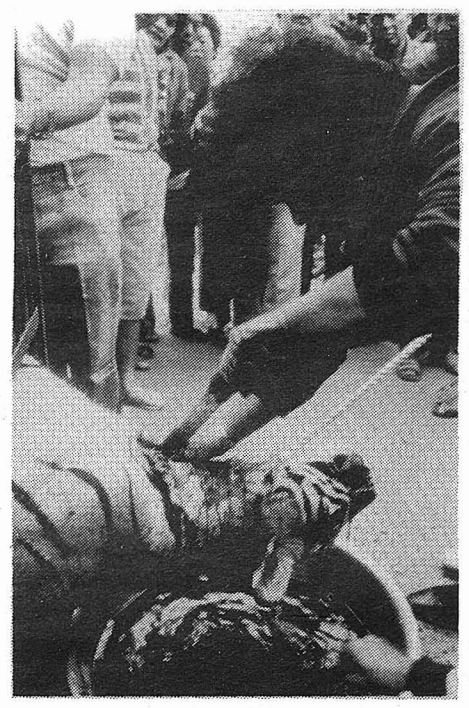
Taiwan's so called "wildlife farms" also serve as staging areas for other illegal wildlife, particularly larger animals like leopards, bears and primates. Individuals are almost always non-native species from habitats located thousands of miles away. At one location, an hour outside Taipei, ESP cameras filmed three infant orangutans from distant Borneo sharing a cage. Besides the dozen tigers held for breeding and sale (the owner's refrigerator held an entire tiger skeleton), one cage contained a North American mountain lion. The import, sale or trade of orangutans and tigers is prohibited under Taiwanese law. Unfortunately, like the wildlife laws regarding everything else in Taiwan, this regulation is completely ignored.

Unenforced Legislation

Over the last 30 years, traditional conservation efforts for species of terrestrial megafauna like elephants, rhinos and tigers have focused almost exclusively on activity and efforts within the "range states"—the territories where the animals live. International efforts to implement bans on trade of rhino horn and tiger parts through the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) of rhino horn and tiger parts have failed, not through lack of effort to curtail poaching and traffic of wildlife products within and out of the range states, but rather because of the near total absence of related effort to end trade within the consuming nations, especially Taiwan and China.

As a result, conservation efforts for rhinos and tigers have been eclipsed by market demand and the profitability of the trade. The failure to address the problem is the ultimate cause for the demise of rhinos, tigers, leopards and elephants, and will likely cause their extinction in the wild if left unchecked, just as it has already destroyed the populations of these species across vast areas of the planet.

Recent criticisms by such groups as World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) have attributed fault for these problems to the unenforceable nature of CITES bans on the species in question. WWF has begun suggesting that the only way to save wildlife is to "make it pay its way." What that means for the rhino, for instance—beyond the idea that somehow wildlife owe humanity a debt for the continued privilege of existence—is legalizing the horn trade and acting to preemptively dehorn the surviving populations. By institutionalizing the trade, this proposal would add rhinos to humankind's growing list of (mis)managed animal populations by turning them into farm animals.



In the absence of participation and support by CITES members (like the USA) to implement its accords and apply trade sanctions to offending nations, there will be no future for CITES, or for those species CITES is supposed to safeguard from extinction.

Institutionalizing wildlife trade through legalization and micro-management of populations will be at least as ineffectual as previous efforts to halt species decline in the absence of legitimate activity to curtail and eliminate demand for horn, bone, pelts, penises, and other wildlife products. Legalization could actually further depopulate endangered species by setting up "legitimate" fronts for illegal activity, or as one Namibian conservation official said, "starting a race between the poachers and the dehorners."

The need for banning trade in endangered species is sound; the failure lies within the execution of the implied mandate of CITES members and their responsibility for enforcing bans. While traffickers within Taiwan, China, Singapore and Hong Kong are able to flout national "laws" and international accords, no amount of activity within the range states can prevent the further annihilation and subsequent extinction of species in the wild. As long as the Eastern markets exist, poachers will continue to gun down wildlife, more so as populations dwindle and the prices paid for rare species climb.

Boycott Taiwan

Taiwanese stocks of rhino horn and tiger bone are perhaps equal in quantity to those possessed by extant species populations "on the hoof" within Asia and Africa. In order to force the Taiwanese government to end the illegal wildlife trade, on February 25, 1993, Earth Island, the Environmental Investigation Agency, the Animal Welfare Institute and the Humane Society of the US launched an international boycott against Taiwanese goods. The campaign is initially targeting Taiwanese brand names like Acer computers, Tatung electronics and Giant bicycles. The boycott coalition is demanding that Taiwan seize and destroy all stocks of rhino, tiger and bear products and enact mandatory sentences for wildlife dealers commensurate with those presently reserved for convicted dealers of illegal drugs like heroin and cocaine.

A number of US-based companies that rely heavily on Taiwanese imports of components and finished products are also being contacted in an attempt to strengthen the boycott on a national level. Such name-brand giants as Nike, Puma and Adidas, Schwinn and Raleigh for bicycles, Prince and Wilson, and Tandy/Radio Shack are being encouraged to suspend trade with Taiwan until such time as the government takes meaningful action against the trade.

Enforcement of the CITES trade bans and the relevant laws within Taiwan can only be achieved through seizure and destruction of stocks of products derived from endangered wildlife, and via actual enforcement of Taiwan's Wildlife Conservation Act. The opinions held by the majority of those Taiwanese citizens, journalists and government officials willing to acknowledge the existence of the trade are similar to those held by Westerners, i.e. that it should be stopped. What is still lacking in Taiwan is the political will to even acknowledge that a problem exits, let alone deal with it in a constructive manner.

Wildlife trafficking is irresponsible, barbaric and unnecessary; it reflects poorly upon any nation and inevitably compromises international conservation efforts. Taiwan's role as the driving force behind the Asian/international trade in endangered species traffic is inexcusable. For the conservation community and the governments of all CITES nations, it is clearly time to force Taiwan to halt commerce in endangered species. Taiwan's role in the trade is nothing less than an affront to the international conservation community which for too long has coddled Taiwan and China like misunderstood children. The cumulative effect of the hundreds of millions of dollars and decades of effort poured into Asian and African conservation efforts has thus far been little more than an international subsidy of the traditional Chinese medical industry—a practice that provides not so much a way of healing humans as a profitable means of annihilating wildlife.

The negative public and economic fallout associated with the boycott will not be lost on other nations involved in wildlife trade such as China, Japan, and South Korea. The boycott should serve as an object lesson on the potentially damaging consequences other nations can expect in the event they also fail to address these issues within their own borders.

The West of course is also guilty of profiteering off the resources of living plants and animals. CITES itself, the international body charged with protecting threatened species, is predicated on the trading in endangered species rather than abolishing such trade except in cases of direst threat to the survival of the species. We can argue that our own usage "rationale" is based on science rather than superstition, but when it comes to destroying an ancient species like the yew tree to produce a high-cost cancer-fighting drug, the results can be the same.

Perhaps it is time for the United States to exhibit some much needed international leadership by banning all import and export of wild animals not associated with education and research. In as much as the trade in wild animals has a universally negative effect on populations and ecosystems, it would seem a timely and sensible thing to do. Until such time as the nations of the world exhibit the political will to deal with the problem of endangered species trade, education and citizen action must provide solutions to the problems affecting rhinos, tigers, leopards, bears, pandas and a host of other species. And right now, that may be the only genuine hope that exists for resolving these problems within the lifetime of the wild populations of the species themselves.

Boycott Taiwan!

For more information, contact Earth Island's Endangered Species Project, Ft. Mason Center, E-205, San Francisco, CA 94123.

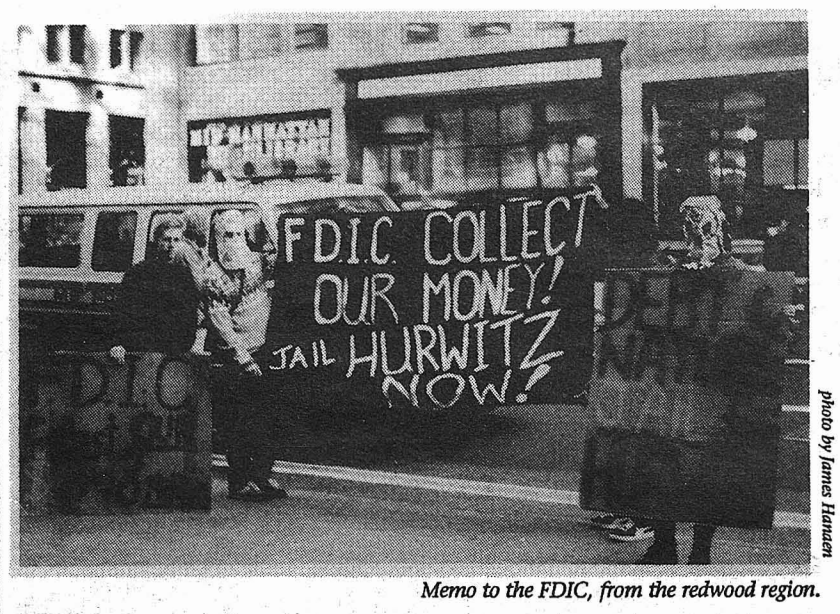


photo by James Hansen

Memo to the FDIC, from the redwood region.

Debt for Nature, Jail for Hurwitz

BY DARRYL CHERNEY

Animals and activists from the redwood region and points east rallied outside the headquarters of the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC) in Washington, DC, and New York City on November 22. The rallies were called to demand that a $548 million claim against redwood raider Charles Hurwitz's failed S & L be vigorously pursued before the statute of limitations runs out at year's end. The animals delivered a memo to FDIC employees asking that the man who has been hacking down their redwood homes be indicted for his treachery against the American taxpayers.

Earth First! was joined by Save America's Forests, the Student Environmental Action Coalition, Native Forest Network and others in staging this effective rally. Activists in New York met with seemingly sympathetic FDIC officials, and in DC, activists hung a huge 24-foot banner from two little trees in front of FDIC headquarters with a two-word message even a bureaucrat could understand: Jail Hurwitz.

Meanwhile, Texas Congressperson Henry Gonzalez, chairman of the House Banking Committee, faxed a letter to FDIC Chairman Andrew Hove, Jr., calling on the agency to act on its claim against Hurwitz, which has languished for five years without any criminal or civil action being pursued. Hurwitz, the infamous junk bond raider who tripled the logging rate of the Pacific Lumber Company after his MAXXAM Corp. took it over in 1985 and incurred a $750 million debt, is also responsible for the failure of United Savings Association of Texas (USAT). USAT cost $1.6 billion to bail out, making it the largest failed thrift in Texas. The $548 million claim stands against USAT's holding company, United Financial Group, and stems from Hurwitz's failure to fulfill an agreement with the FDIC to maintain a minimum net worth of that amount in the bank.

This activity takes place as the Headwaters Forest Act (HR 2866) moves smoothly through the House of Representatives. The bill, introduced by California Congressperson Dan Hamburg, would authorize the federal government to purchase 44,000 acres of redwood forest. It has the thumbs up from President Clinton. However, Earth First! activists, who originated this issue in 1986 by hiking, mapping, naming and promoting Headwaters, are concerned that Hurwitz could receive federal dollars for the ancient redwoods before he has paid back his S & L debt to the American taxpayers. Hurwitz's $500 million asking price for Headwaters conveniently approximates his S & L debt. With the legality of the PL takeover and the S & L failure in question, the goal becomes clear: DEBT FOR NATURE AND JAIL FOR HURWITZ.

Save the Etiwanda Sage!

A California Department of Fish and Game lands aquisition proposal for the Etiwanda alluvial sage fan in the foothills of the San Gabriel mountains is now before the California Wildlife Conservation Board.

The proposal, the result of intensive campaigning by Alluvial EF!, calls for the purchase of 700 acres about to be auctioned by the Resolution Trust Corporation. The US Fish and Wildlife Service is also looking at two adjacent parcels for acquisition, so that over 1,200 acres may qualify for federal protection.

The Etiwanda area, noted for its dense stands of white sage, is also home to a unique peat bog dated over one hundred thousand years old, which contains spiders and other many-legged creatures of distinct taxonomy.

The Etiwanda sage fan is part of the alluvial sage scrub ecosystem. With over 97% of the historic range destroyed, and with most of the remaining 3% slated for destruction, alluvial sage scrub is one of the most endangered ecosystems in the world.

Write letters of support to John Schmidt, Executive Director, Wildlife Conservation Board, 801 K Street, Sacramento, CA 95814.

Relax, the Owl Is Just Fine

BY DAVE COLLINS

On October 6, the timber industry filed a petition asking the US government to remove the northern spotted owl from the threatened species list in California.

A biologist for the American Forest and Paper Association said, "We've got a lot more owls than we originally thought; ...the immediate danger in terms of long-term survival... is not nearly what was thought."

The good folks at the US Fish and Wildlife Service made assurances that the owl is "faring better" in California than in Oregon and Washington mainly because there is more active clearcutting in the northwest. However, a spokesperson for the agency acknowledged it would be premature to delist the owl only three years after its listing.

The California Forestry Association also filed for delisting, claiming that as many as 8,500 spotted owls live in California. This is more than the 8,000 estimated by FWS for the entire three-state area! Robert Taylor, a CFA biologist, called their habitat "stable," and said it was "likely to increase." Of course, he lauded the CFA, saying their "projection of population trend is based on a more precise, mechanistic model of owl population dynamics than existing government models." (Does this mean we go in with our chainsaws?) CFA president William Dennison said that their study included privately-owned forests not included in the government survey.

The FWS regional estimate of about 8,000 owls includes 3,602 breeding pairs—ironically the same number estimated when the spotted owl was listed as threatened. One can see quite a disparity in the figures. For example, while the CFA estimates 2,500 pairs of owls in California, the FWS tallies only 960.

It appears as if these "forestry ass-ociations" are using insidious and highly dubious means to achieve their ends, i.e., to go in and wipe out every acre of old growth they can set their greasy chainsaws to, eradicating ALL the life therein. Once again, amid the rattling of chainsaws (sabers?), goes up the frenetic battle cry of the corporation: "Damn all the life forms—there's money to be made!"

Postscript: For a translation of the aforementioned "biologists," I refer readers to Robespierre's *Rules for Rhetorical Redundancy*, or *Redundant Rules for Rhetoric*, or, well, anyway, it can be found at fine corporate bookstores/restrooms everywhere.

Fighting Logging in Maine's Mt. Blue State Park

So you think the northern forests of Maine are an untrammeled wilderness? Well, here are some facts to ponder. Ninety-eight percent of Maine is "forested," making it the most tree-covered region in the United States. Yet over 50 percent is owned by multinational paper companies. Less than five percent of Maine is owned by the public, and the one percent of Maine's land that is in the Park and Reserve land status remains unprotected from the timber industry.

In 1984, the people of Maine voted in favor of a referendum outlawing commercial cutting in state parks, but the law excluded all existing deeds and contracts. In 1967, the state of Maine deeded timber rights to 1,160 acres of the 5,000-acre Mt. Blue State Park to Timberlands, Inc., for a thirty-year period. In a shady exchange, Timberlands gave the state 17 acres on Webb Lake. The state recently reported that Timberlands violated the original deed and management plan, but the fundamental issue remains: timber companies should get out and stay out of Maine's dwindling public lands.

After ignoring the deed since 1972, Timberlands began cutting again in 1992. One hundred people organized to stop the cut in Mt. Blue State Park. Numerous tactics ranging from meetings, lobbying, and education to non-violent citizen blockades (35 arrests—all charges dismissed) have brought the issue to the forefront of the forestry debate in Maine. The deed expires in 1997, when the state will inherit a scathed and unsightly park checkerboarded with clearcuts. Maine's forests are already stripped of their original diversity, thanks to the multinational timber companies.

We call upon the people of Maine, the United States, and the world to help protect the public land remaining in Maine, the paper plantation state.

Strip Mining Threatens the Kaiparowits

BY FAITH WALKER

Andalex Resources, Inc. (kinda rhymes with "Band-of-Fucks"), a coal-mining company owned by the Dutch Michell Green family, continues to haunt the Colorado Plateau. And to no one's surprise, the BLM is aiding and abetting them. Bandafux is Kentucky-based and has mines in that state as well as two near Price, Utah. In 1985 they leased a nine-square-mile site in Smokey Hollow Canyon, Kaiparowits Plateau, north of Page, Arizona. They plan to unearth about two and a half million tons of coal annually. Rocky Mountain double trucks (300 per day, each 92 feet long) will haul it to either Moapa, Nevada or Lion Springs, Utah (because Flagstaff raised hell), load it on choo-choos headed for Los Angeles, and then—get this—shipping it to Japan, Korea or Taiwan. In 1991, when several Flagstaffians ranted about the idiocy of this plan, project manager Dave Shaver changed his tune, saying that a market will be sought in Texas. Hmm. Bandafux and its cohorts are definitely thinking BIG. The Port of LA is currently enlarging its harbor, so that by April, 1996, it will be able to handle an eight- to ten-fold increase in the amount of Utah coal, which will effectively double the amount of coal coming out of this state.

The leases of Bandafux and PacifiCorp would expire in 1995 (according to BLM rules) if the companies failed to show commercial development worth 1/100 of the recoverable coal. But last year, Utah BLM Director Jim Parker issued a "suspension of diligence" on these companies' leases, freeing them of any deadlines. Furthermore, the Southern Utah Wilderness Alliance reports that the BLM is shirking its duty to include the National Park Service (NPS) in the review process of a draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) to be released this winter. Because the trucks are slated to run though Glen Canyon National Recreation Area, the NPS should be included in the EIS process as a "cooperating agency." Yet the Kanab BLM office denied an NPS request that scoping hearings be held in San Francisco and Denver, and the state and Kanab offices have actually fibbed regarding NPS involvement.

Look at a map. That big empty spot between Lake Foul and the town of Escalante is one of the few large areas on the Colorado Plateau with wildness worth shouting about. It is framed by the Escalante River drainage, Glen Canyon, the Paria Plateau, the Vermilion Cliffs, the White Cliffs, Bryce Canyon, and the Dixie National Forest. It has one north-south dirt road, impassable most of the year. A portion of Kaiparowits Plateau is included in Utah Representative Hinchey's Utah BLM Wilderness Act (HR 1500). Kaiparowits, red rock country of the Plateau, means "mountain home of the people" in Pah Ute, and harbors both archaeological sites and Plateau critters: 7 amphibian, 29 reptile, 74 mammal, and 183 bird species. These include Mexican spotted owl, spotted bat, peregrine falcon, mountain lion, golden eagle, bobcat, and until recently, bighorn sheep. The native Colorado River cutthroat trout may exist in the drainages of Lake Foul.

The Utah Department of Natural Resources is concerned that mining operations will permanently dry up critical springs and seeps and that subsidence will affect the large communal winter dens of some snake species as well as the other rare and threatened reptilian species that may inhabit the area. These include the western chuckwalla, night lizard, plateau whiptail, Mojave patchnosed snake, Rocky Mountain toad, and leopard frog.

Utah DNR's stated main wildlife concern, however, is the migrating Paunsaugunt mule deer herd, members of which are frequently crunched on Highway 89 east of Kanab. To keep deer out of the coal trucks' way DNR suggests convincing them to stay on the north side of the highway by employing "vegetative treatments" which "could consist of chainings, prescribed burns, hand treatments, or chemical treatments."

The danger in allowing Bandafux access to Kaiparowits is that it paves the way for other coal companies to gain access to the heart of the plateau, by way of both new and "improved" roads. With the twin onslaught of touroids (similar to hemorrhoids in that they're both just one step away from an asshole) and companies such as Bandafux currently ravaging the Colorado Plateau, this can't be allowed to happen.

Write to the following people, and if you are in Salt Lake City, please put Mr. Parker under citizen's arrest for violating his own mandate.

Robert Anderson, President, Andalex Resources, Inc., 1200 Hurstborn Place, 12th Floor, 9300 Shelbyville Rd., Louisville, KY 40222; phone (502) 339-5000, fax (502) 339-5050.

James Parker, State Director, Bureau of Land Management, 324 S. State St., Salt Lake City, UT 84111-2303; phone (801) 539-4010.

Verlin Smith, Area Manager, Bureau of Land Management, 318 N. 100 East, Kanab, UT 84741; (801) 644-2672.

Jim Baca, BLM Director, 18th & C St. NW, Washington, DC 20240.

Four Southern California Species Listed

BY DAVID HOGAN

On August 3, 1993, the US Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) listed four southern California vernal pool species as endangered under the Endangered Species Act. Found only in vernal pools in San Diego and Riverside Counties, the Otay Mesa mint, California Orcutt grass, San Diego button-celery, and the Riverside fairy shrimp, are all threatened with extinction in the near future. The listing of these species, along with four others presently undergoing review by FWS, could protect hundreds of acres of incredibly rich vernal pool habitat in San Diego and Riverside Counties.

Vernal pools are unique temporary aquatic ecosystems, formed after winter and spring rains on the coastal mesas of San Diego County, and in the inland valleys of Riverside County. Because they are nearly always found on flat topography valued as prime real estate, vernal pools have been reduced to less than 3% of their original area in California.

FWS has proposed endangered status for four plants, and threatened status for two others. Found only within the southern chaparrals of Orange and San Diego Counties, and Baja California Norte, the Del Mar manzanita, Encinitas baccharis, Del Mar sand aster, Orcutt's spineflower, short-leaved dudleya, and the big-leaved crown beard are all threatened by the destruction of coastal chaparral for development. The big-leaved crown beard and the Del Mar sand aster are proposed for threatened status due to the presence of extensive crown beard populations in Baja, and disturbance tolerance by the sand aster. The listing of these species, along with the listing of the California gnatcatcher last spring, could protect the fewer than 1,500 acres of southern maritime chaparral remaining.

Most of these species have been on the "warranted but precluded" list for years while habitat critical to their survival has been obliterated. A petition by the San Diego Biodiversity Project, and a settlement on a legal complaint by the Biodiversity Legal Foundation finally forced the FWS to act on these species.

All six species are dependent on the unique fog and marine layer associated with southern maritime chaparral. Fewer than 1,500 acres of this plant community remain, and of that, only half is found in fairly large, contiguous blocks. Maritime chaparral also contains the Torrey pine, one of the rarest conifers in the world. Besides habitat destruction, the elimination of the fire regime on the southern California coast is probably the most serious threat to the six species.

Wake Up, Virginia!

BY BOB MUELLER

Your birthright of ancient forest is being needlessly, wantonly destroyed by the US Forest Service in cooperation with the Virginia State Division of Natural Heritage. When Virginians for the Wilderness inspected the proposed Stillhouse Timber Sale in the George Washington National Forest's Deerfield District they were surprised to learn that cutting unit #1 consisted of old growth. And it had not even been mentioned in the environmental assessment! Since then we have been trying hard to save this precious example of the ancient Appalachian. This effort culminated in an appeal to the Regional Forester, which was denied. We also brought this old growth stand to the attention of the State Division of Natural Heritage, which has a mandate to inventory such special biological communities. Our pleas fell on deaf ears, however. From the start the US Forest Service has purveyed only lies about the stand. They maintain it is not ancient forest because it is too small, is near a road, is surrounded by previously logged forest (why it is precious!), shows only two characteristics of old growth (it actually shows at least six) and has a heavy white pine understory (it actually has very few of this native species). The USFS admits that the stand is at least 183 years old. We believe it may be far older since we counted more than 300 growth rings on a white pine stump at its edge.

Unfortunately the State Division of Natural Heritage is going along with the Forest Service despite our pleas that they investigate for themselves. While the stand deserves a detailed study, the point will be moot if the stand is cut. For this reason we need help. We need letters and/or phone calls to Supervisor George Kelley. Also let Natural Heritage know how you feel about this ancient forest.

Write or call: George Kelley, Supervisor, George Washington Nat'l Forest, PO Box 233, Main Street Station, Harrisonburg, VA 22801; (703) 433-2491

Timothy J. O'Connell, Dept. of Conservation & Recreation, Division of Natural Heritage, 1500 E. Main Street, Suite 312, Richmond, VA 23219; (804) 786-7951

An Open Letter to Susan Zakin,
Author of *Coyotes and Town Dogs—*
Earth First! and the Environmental Movement

BY MARK DAVIS

Editors' note: This is the final installment of an article begun in the Samhain issue.

In 1988-89, the FBI infiltrated a group of activists in Prescott, Arizona. Spending millions of dollars and accumulating 800 hours of clandestinely recorded conversations, the government's frame-up culminated in the arrests of Mark Davis, Peg Millett, Marc Baker, Ilse Asplund and Dave Foreman.

The Arizona 5, as they came to be known, were accused of a conspiracy to destroy nuclear power plants, an absurd charge thrown out of court for lack of evidence. The defendants ultimately accepted a plea bargain in 1991, pleading guilty to lesser charges. Foreman was placed on probation for five years. His sentencing was delayed until the end of that time, when his felony conspiracy charge will be reduced to a misdemeanor. The others received varying amounts of jail time: one month for Asplund, six months for Baker, three years for Millett, and six years for Davis, who is the only one still in prison.

The following article is a revised version of the letter Mark sent to Susan Zakin and several other individuals in September after the publication of Coyotes and Town Dogs—Earth First! and the Environmental Movement. *A copy of this article was sent to Dave Foreman prior to its publication here.*

In part one, Mark wrote about plans with his co-defendants to down power lines originating at nuclear power plants and his commitment to non-violence. The first paragraph is the reprinted conclusion of part one.

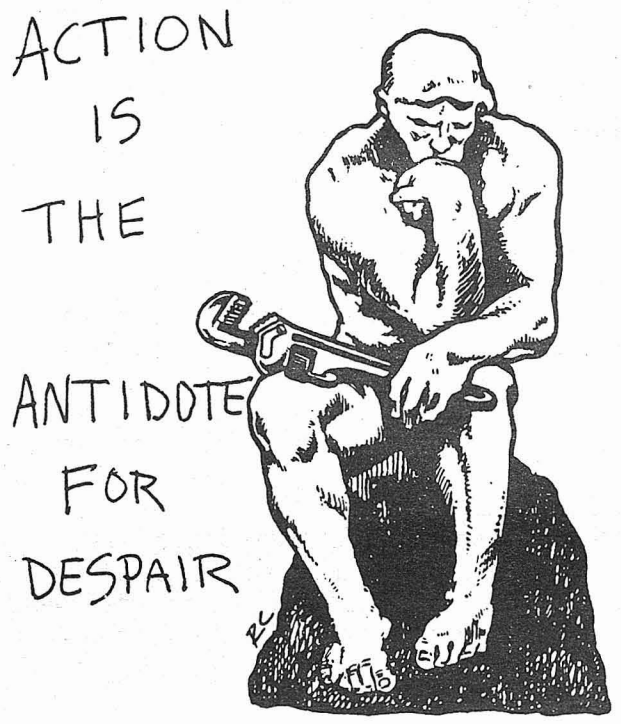
On one of the trips I made to Tucson, Foreman and I took a walk and talked. We discussed in general terms the state of the planet, and the need to take strong action. We discussed specifically the killing being done by nukes, the disastrous effects of uranium mining on the inhabitants of the reservations where most of it took place, talked about the long history of governmental cover-ups and so forth. I asked him if he could come up with any money to help fund some potentially risky anti-nuclear activities. He agreed to provide some. Shortly thereafter I received $480 from him. The government was convinced that had I been willing to testify about this conversation, Foreman surely would have been convicted of the anti-nuclear conspiracy charges and be in prison. I could easily have cut a deal to do so and save myself.

Anyhow, Foreman was fully aware of the anti-nuke plans. I know this because I told him myself. The prosecution wanted to put him away real bad, and believed I was the only one of the defendants who could provide them with a "smoking gun." My six-year sentence was a consolation prize, given when it became clear I would never cooperate.

None of this negates the fact that the Nuke Conspiracy, start to finish, was an outrageous example of government entrapment. All the illegal activities except the Nuke Plot were essentially minor vandalism. The Plot was only kept shakily alive through the vigorous efforts of the FBI, who had clearly decided to shut Foreman up. In a free society, the agents responsible would have been dismissed in disgrace. However, we live where and as we live, and after the past years of dismemberment, there is little left of the Bill of Rights. The secret police are pretty close to unstoppable. They can do what they please, secure in the knowledge that a complacent citizenry doesn't want to know about it.

One of the most objectionable aspects of your caricature of me is your repeated assertion about my eagerness for martyrdom. According to you it's the only motivation for my activism, in those rare moments when I am lucid enough to even *have* a motivation.

You recount in your book the well-known incident in which Foreman confronted a man driving a pickup truck, refused to back down, and as a result was knocked over and dragged some distance. This could have easily cost him his life. I have heard him say that it caused continuing knee problems. Was this martyrdom? Was it somehow sleazy, despicable?



I don't think so. It was an honorable act of courage undertaken by a man who deemed it necessary to expose himself to harm. He was fighting for something worth taking a risk over, and sometimes the fighters get hurt. That is the unfortunate price occasionally paid by those who have principles and act on them, or for loving someone or something—a person, the Wild—enough that self-interest becomes secondary. This is often a temporary state.

Martyrdom, such as you claim I long to achieve, is quite a different matter. It has unpleasant overtones of fanaticism, of self delusion. It is little more than a will toward self destruction masquerading as a little-tin-soldier version of honor. You clearly portray me in this light. The main evidence you offer for your interpretation is a partial, out of context quote: "Mark fantasized about sacrificing himself for the good of the world, in one media-heavy kamikaze death strike. 'It's like poker, you have to ante. My ante is my life,' he swaggered" (p. 336). This is combined with an utterly unsubstantiated statement that after breaking up with Ilse and finding it "wasn't solving his problems[, h]e often felt suicidal."

I have already dealt with your creation of the "kamikaze death strike" *(see Samhain—ed.)*. Now I think maybe we oughta swagger up to that there statement about antes.

Western industrial civilization is a killing machine. The power elite running it is incredibly well-entrenched, comprised of people who have the most to gain in the short term from continued, unencumbered destruction of the biosphere. They have control of the police forces, the military, the major media, the legislatures which ostensibly regulate their activities, and the bureaucracies charged with implementing those regulations. The comfort and security of the citizens of industrial nations are dependent upon the continued speedy conversion of the Earth's living and nonliving resources into products. It is thus fair to say that our corporate overlords also control public opinion. It's not hard to win arguments when you can constantly hold the specter of homelessness or worse over the heads of your opponents.

Against this juggernaut, which operates with the approval of most of the populace, we find arrayed a rather motley and underfunded group of often poorly organized activists. The Good Germans are running the machine, so it might not be too surprising if the ranks of their opponents include a fair number of people who could be described as, well, eccentric. And broke.

And powerless. In a society where access to power is coterminous with wealth, and where wealth is derived mostly from activities which threaten to ruin the Earth, environmental activists are not likely to be rich or powerful. With neither money nor power and facing a hostile and quite ruthless police state there is only one way to get heard. The ante to get into the game is to risk some portion of one's comfort, or freedom, or life.

This is what happens every time a tree sitter goes up on one of those dinky little platforms and puts herself at the mercy of enraged men with chainsaws. It is what happens each time the Sea Shepherd rams an illegal whaler, or the Rainbow Warrior docks within reach of the French Secret Service, or when Judi Bari persists in her peculiar, egotistic, abrasive and thoroughly magnificent efforts to keep the last of the North Coast old growth upright and alive. It is what Dave Foreman was doing when he stood in front of that truck. It is what every activist does when they step over the line of convention and chain themselves to a crane in San Pedro, or accept beating and arrest in the offices of the University of Arizona. It is the only coin which will get you any leverage at all against an opponent incomprehensibly larger and more powerful. That is the ante I was talking about on those tapes. I hope this clears it up for you.

There is one more significant factual matter to discuss.

Your version has Foreman as a sure bet to be acquitted (pp. 437, 439). But after thinking about an inspirational quote from Edward Abbey, he decided to accept a plea bargain he didn't need, sacrificing himself for the good of his codefendants. It was that change of heart, y'know, where he decided maybe he did have some responsibility "for the people he attracted to Earth First!" (p. 439). Wotta guy!

Me? Well, I was just chomping at the bit for a chance to go to prison, where I planned to use crude prison-made implements to reproduce the Stigmata of Christ on my palms and side and wear a nice crown made from locally abundant razor wire, thorns being in short supply.

A bit of cogitation is in order. Put on your thinking cap, because this seems to have escaped you the first time around.

Foreman took a plea deal which allowed him to walk away with a misdemeanor. He did four, count 'em four (that's 4) days in jail over this whole thing. So far I've done 27 months of what will probably work out to four years in prison, plus a couple years on parole.

Now I don't know how you professional journalists figure these things, but that seems to me to be about 365 times as much prison jollies as ol' Dave received. Until you pointed out the proper perspective on things, I could have sworn he did sort of okay on the plea bargain.

Perhaps I am distorting things. Maybe I was facing so much time that the six-year hit I took was a good deal also, and all this is so much sour grapes.

To determine sentencing, the court orders a Pre-Sentence Report prepared once a defendant pleads guilty or is convicted. This document provides the sentencing judge with relevant information for decisions about the amount of time to be served,

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conditions of confinement, fines and so forth. It includes a professional calculation of the sentence which would have been served, in the case of a plea bargain, had the defendants been convicted on all counts. In my case, this came to 44 to 52 months.

There were two meetings held at which the plea bargain was discussed by all the defendants. The first one took place in the courthouse in Prescott at my request. I took a last shot at convincing the others to reject the agreement and continue the trial. My argument was that we had a moral obligation to use the media coverage to expose the dishonest behavior of the FBI, among other things. I started by reassuring everyone that I was not going to unilaterally block the deal, a power any one of us had; if any defendant had balked we all would have had to continue the trial. I made my pitch, and it was rejected as expected.

In the discussion which followed, Foreman's attorney, Gerry Spence, spoke about his perspective on the plea agreement. He was advising Foreman to accept the deal as being in his best interest, since Spence did not feel he had more than a fifty-fifty chance of winning if the case went to the jury. Foreman said that while he did think this deal was in everyone's interest, he wanted to make it clear that he was not sacrificing himself for anyone else. He wanted this to go through to avoid a conviction and prison term.

The second meeting took place at Wellborn Jack's rented house in Prescott. All the defendants and Wellborn and paralegal John Riordan were present. We discussed what the deal meant to each of us. Foreman reiterated that he wanted it because it directly benefited him, not for anyone else's sake. This is a direct, witnessed contradiction of both the account in your book and his statement to reporters (p. 439).

Your account is a fabrication. I believe it is a conscious fabrication, as there is simply too much information too easily available to account for it as merely more sloppy research.

All the information I give about events which took place during the trial, and around the negotiations which ended it, can be verified by contacting John Riordan of Prescott, whom you already know. John acted as a paralegal and was involved as things unfolded. He was present at both of the meetings which addressed the plea bargain.

It shouldn't be too hard to figure out that if one defendant walks away with probation and another one gets a stiff sentence, the guy on the street didn't make a sacrifice. The plea deal was the culmination of a brilliant and ruthless campaign by Foreman, Spence & Company to walk Foreman out without a felony conviction or any prison time. It required my cooperation, and was quite daring in that they had to gamble that no matter how outrageously selfish Foreman's behavior was, I would keep my silence.

If Foreman was going to walk after all the money and time spent on setting him up, the prosecution had to have a head to hang on the wall or they'd look foolish. Ilse is a single mom with two little kids. Marc and Peg desperately wanted an end to the nightmare of the trial. I was quite visibly the most culpable of the defendants. So I bit the bullet and took the deal, not because I am some sort of martyr, but because it was the right thing to do. No one who was present during the discussions I relate above could possibly have reached the conclusion that I was eager to take the plea. I resisted it as far as I could in good conscience.

I hate this. Prison is a nightmare which goes on for years without relief. It is very painful being here, and your dishonest portrayal of me in *Coyotes* has made it a little worse. Naturally, I have thought some about why you did this.

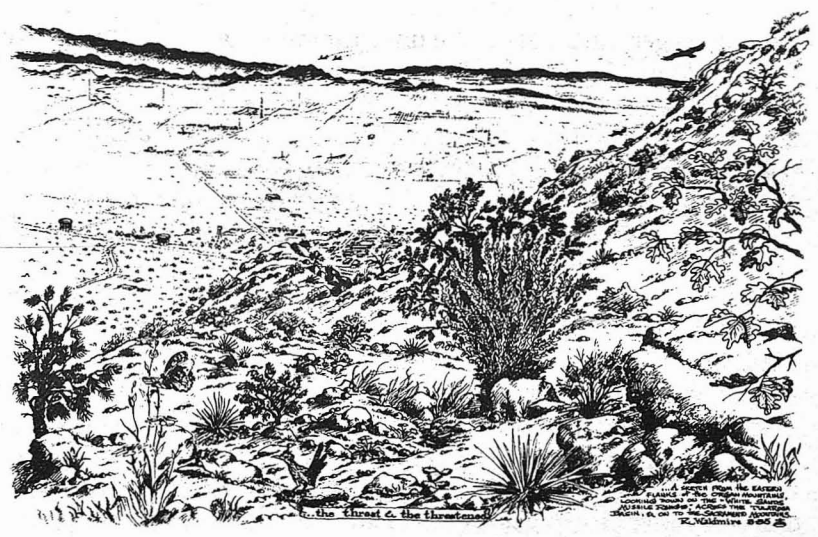
In this letter I have tried to restrain my impulses toward explanation in favor of correcting your many errors. So far as I know, everything I state as true in the preceding text is in fact true. At this point I'm changing gears to write about the dynamics which I believe underlie both Foreman's behavior and yours. Since I am neither telepathic nor clairvoyant, what follows is partially speculation.

Your book is wildly inaccurate when it deals with facts of which I have personal knowledge, and I have some reason to believe the rest of *Coyotes* is similar. However, the misstatements and outright falsehoods you present are not the result of random error. In my own case, every single distortion is used to show me in the worst possible light. Nowhere is there an error made, so to speak, in my favor. I believe you set out consciously to discredit me. In contrast, your treatment of Foreman is embarrassingly sycophantic. Let me give a graphic illustration of the difference in spin you choose when relating information pertaining to each of us.

You lay the groundwork for later attacks in your initial description of me (p. 324). At one point in my life, I spent six years teaching and practicing Kundalini Yoga, which involved my getting up at 2:30 a.m. for meditation practice. I did a great deal of service work during those years, ranging from working in free kitchens to teaching children in some of Los Angeles County's most forlorn juvenile facilities. This you describe as having "migrated to the seamy underside of Southern California hippie mysticism."

In comparison, you present your version of the five Buckaroos' famous trip to Mexico, the catalyzing event for the founding of Earth First!, in a rollicking, tolerant tone. Indeed, the whole passage is steeped in a golden glow, appropriate to the creation of a myth. In describing some of the Buckaroos' naughty-but-manly shenanigans (pp. 131-32), we find this phrase, describing the first stop in a night devoted to visiting whorehouses: "At this joint, the whores were young. Real young. One by one, most of the Buckaroos got drunk enough to wander off with the dark-eyed teenager of their choice." How about her choice?

Being in a prison in Southern California, I have easy access to quite a few people with personal knowledge of Mexican whorehouses. I asked several just what "Real young" meant in the context in which you wrote it. The consensus was that it most likely means 12 or 13, maybe 14, 15 tops.



I also asked how these "whores" were recruited. Turns out that they most likely weren't middle class debutantes turning a trick here and there for movie money, oddly enough. Quite commonly, girls from poor families are sold to the whorehouse owner, used mercilessly, beaten when they disobey, and are discarded when the wear begins to show. Others are forced into what amounts to slavery when they cannot find another way to survive. Most of the patrons' money goes to the brothel-keeper.

I don't know if any of this actually happened—your track record doesn't lend much credibility to any of your depictions of events. In fact, I have been informed by someone close to one Buckaroo that only one or two of them availed themselves of the proffered children. The point is this: had your narrative found *me* in such an establishment it's not difficult to imagine how different the tone of your story would have been. And you thought doing yoga was sleazy.

The subtitle to *Coyotes* is *Earth First! and the Environmental Movement.* A more honest one would have been "A Hagiography of David Foreman." You are involved in creating a legend, and cannot be troubled with facts or critical thinking.

I can only speculate about your motives. I imagine that you have fallen into a trap which afflicts quite a few authors who write about charismatic subjects. Perhaps you've fallen in love with the fascinating image you portray in your book; certainly you aren't the first city mouse to uncritically swallow that Marlboro Man cowboy horseshit. Foreman is a complex, charismatic and charming character. Your fascination is understandable. Still, your book is not what it purports to be. It is propaganda in service of an unspoken agenda.

That agenda has been set by your unacknowledged and unprofessional identification with your subject. Rather than chronicling facts and offering theories, you have misused your considerable power as the author of a mass-market book to promote Foreman's interests.

Something changed the man I heard speak sincerely and movingly about the need for a warrior society to fight for the Earth into a cold character who seemed willing to do whatever it took to better his own odds of walking free.

I have heard repeatedly how Foreman spoke of his fear after the traumatic moment of the arrest. I am told that he seemed obsessed by it and could speak of little else for some time afterward.

Did an epiphany of sorts take place at that instant, looking into the barrels of those guns? Perhaps a man who prides himself on his lack of introspection suddenly saw deep inside at that moment. Instead of a warrior, a politician peered back at him. And the thing a politician does best is survive.

So he did! With the trial out of the way, the next order of business has been to position himself for his new career as a respectable environmentalist, for he never wants to face those guns again. To ensure that, the prototypical environmental radical must move away from confrontation toward something safe, fundable and unlikely to cause the thugs he once opposed and irritated to ever worry about him again. He has done a good job so far. His reinvention of self is almost complete. I am told that he now styles himself kind of a "Zen Cowboy."

The ugliness of the arrest and trial needs to be smoothed over, of course. That requires that a story be created and promoted which puts the proper spin on things, and discredits possible dissident voices. *Coyotes* contains that story.

You're entirely welcome to create the Legend of the Big Buckaroo, complete with a figurative bronze statue of the central figure cast in a heroic pose. But you're going to have to move the pedestal over a little bit, because the way you've got it now it's resting on my foot and I don't intend to bear the weight in silence.

There is another, less personal reason I decided to write this. You make an absurd and dangerous statement: "For ten years, Dave Foreman had gotten away with saying fuck you to the US government. In a way, it was a tribute to the country's concept of freedom that he lasted so long" (p. 442).

How utterly strange to find that bootlicking evaluation of the situation in your summation. The FBI went to great lengths and spent millions of dollars to entrap and neutralize a man who was having some success at rousing opposition to the profitable destruction of the Earth. You did not tell your readers the exact nature of the charge Foreman pleaded guilty to: he handed a copy of *Ecodefense*, a legally published book, to someone. The prosecution dragged in totally innocent people involved in that book's production (the *typesetter* for one!) and forced them to testify at the trial. It was an outrageous attack on the First Amendment, and a successful one.

Freedom, Susan, means being able to say fuck you to the government indefinitely and without fear. Activists need to know that as the crisis heats up the jackboots are going to be coming down on more necks, and that people— including respected and admired and prominent people—can break and do shameful things under the horrific pressures which the State can bring to bear.

Sincerely,

Mark Davis

Write to Mark Davis #23106-008, Federal Prison Camp, PO Box 1000, Boron, CA 93596. He needs your support.

Treehouse Stops Road Construction in Britain

BY ALEC SMART

Construction of the seven-kilometre link road between the M11 Motorway and the Blackwall Tunnel has been halted by a treehouse on George Green in London. Work began on the first stage of the M11 link on 3 November. However, a 250-year-old chestnut tree was occupied by six people, and a shelter built within its branches. Activists maintain a constant vigil by remaining within its canvas and wood structure, rotating shifts. In an unprecedented move, a court has granted an injunction restraining the Department of Transport (DOT) and their contractors.

Guards patrolled the work site, and erected fences around George Green. One of the guards, after meeting the protesters and climbing the tree, resigned from his post and offered his support to M11 opposition.

On 7 November, 200 local residents tore down the fencing and occupied the Green. Eighty children, led by the Lollipop Lady from the pedestrian crossing dressed the tree in ribbons, then planted a "peace garden." The Department of Education later confiscated the lollipop (a yellow traffic stop sign) suggesting that it was not being used for its intended purpose.

Initial construction work on the M11 link began back in September, 1993. It is estimated that it will cost £200 million. Carl, a full-time protester, when describing the "giant squirrels and sawtooth beavers" that had apparently chewed down the security fencing on George Green, declared, "We are trying to cost them [DOT] a lot of money!"

Three hundred sixty-five houses in the construction area have been compulsory-purchased by the DOT and are scheduled to be demolished. An injunction has been served against one of the demolition contractor's employees, who attempted to run down a protester with a 14-tonne truck. A security guard hired to supervise empty properties chased a man with a hammer and threatened a pregnant woman.

In addition to their occupation of the chestnut tree, protesters have moved into five of the empty houses. Seasoned activists, including Earth First!, The Dongas (from the M3 Twyford Down actions) and the Flowerpot Tribe (from Newcastle) have begun considerable repairs on the five properties, which had been made unlivable by the housewrecking contractor to discourage squatters.

On 8 November, a mass community action gathered to defend the chestnut tree from the bulldozers. Police became heavy-handed and made seven arrests. Most were charged with obstruction.

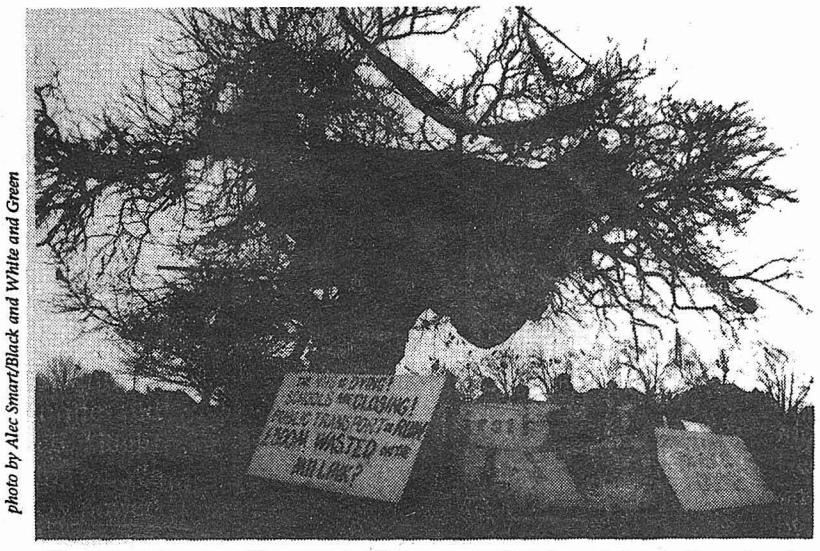


photo by Alec Smart/Black and White and Green

Protester Steven King said, "I was arrested for violent disorder for dancing. Saving the environment is a crime. It seems daft. You get promoted for destroying it. In the cells the police said I was 'smelly scum.' I removed my socks to prove them right. They left the cell fast!"

On 10 November, the tree squatters sought a temporary High Court order restraining the DOT and its contractors. They argued that their treehouse should be given legal status as a dwelling, because it consisted of a roof, walls and a door. Judge Tuckey accepted the definition and granted an initial 24-hour injunction, then a further 24-hour extension.

This is the first time in British legal history that a tree has been officially recognised as a home. Such a remarkable state of affairs is likely to set a precedent. It is believed that the arrival of a letter addressed to the tree, on the Wednesday morning of the court hearing (delivered by Royal Mail) determined the result of the proceedings. It was sent from a Cheshire supporter who'd read about the tree's plight in the *Guardian* newspaper. The message said, "Dear tree... Good luck with the Motorway."

At 4:30 a.m. on 11 November, the day after the injunction was issued, 90 security guards were expected to attempt to evict the tree dwellers and other protesters from George Green. When the first five security guards marched onto the site, they were met by 50 activists and were informed of the injunction served against them. They left soon afterwards, but not before one of them punched Angus, the tree's attorney, in the nose.

One of the treehouse's residents has announced his intentions should contractors attempt to cut the tree. He plans to sit on the end of one of the upper branches with a rope attached to the tree, the other end in a noose around his neck. "If they chop down the tree they'll kill me," he said. They can't push me off or saw down the branch. If the tree dies, I die."

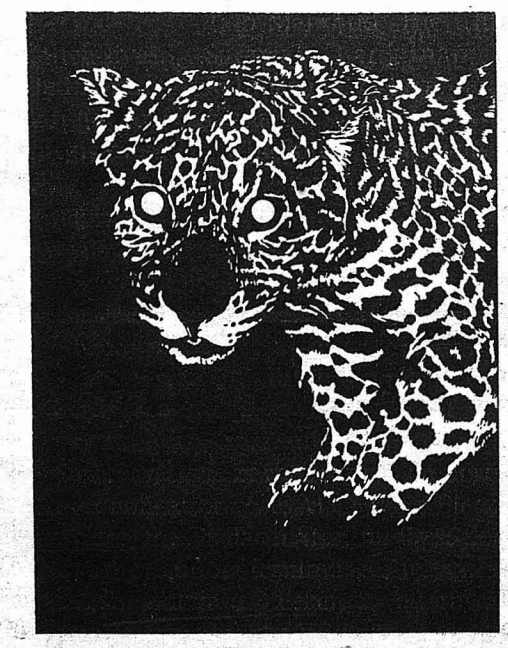
Send mail to the treehouse: Old Chestnut Tree, George Green, Wanstead, London, E11, England.

Turkmenistan Allows Hunting of Endangered Species

BY MARY CARPENTER

An international hunt on Turkmenistan territory was declared open in August and is scheduled to run through February, 1994. A number of endangered and threatened species, such as the Turkmenistan leopard and mountain sheep, Bezarovi goat, and screwhorn goat, are threatened with the same fate that befell the Kurukhaudan mountain sheep population last year during the hunts—extinction.

For the second year in a row, the Turkmenistan Department for the Protection of Fauna and Flora and Use of Natural Resources is issuing permits to foreigners to hunt both threatened and endangered animals. The Department also offers a variety of services to hunting parties, ranging from obtaining visas to getting licenses to bring out their trophies.



The government has granted access to nature reserves where human presence is supposed to be strictly controlled and the animals protected. The reserve areas were set aside for environmental monitoring and biodiversity research. But the government has decided that hunting promises quick receipt of hard currency more valuable than the rich biodiversity of the area. Local environmental activists are working to convince the government that scientific study and ecotourism are sound and profitable alternatives to this barbaric and unsustainable activity.

Environmentalists in Turkmenistan have organized a protest campaign and letters are coming in from throughout the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS). Given the government's high sensitivity and concern for their status in the international community, foreign opinion can be a decisive factor in Turkmenistan politics and is therefore vital. A recent environmental conference in Turkey showed the impact international pressure can have. Embarrassed representatives from the Turkmenistan environmental department were quick to claim that the hunt activities were not supported or condoned by their government.

A quick and loud international response can make a large difference NOW before the hunting season progresses further and wildlife populations are damaged irreversibly. When writing to government officials, please note that several Turkmenistan activists request anonymity, fearing government reprisals. Please *do not* mention the existence of local activists.

Send your letters to Saparmurat Ataevich Niyazov, President of Turkmenistan, and to N. Ashivov, Minister of Nature Use. Both can be contacted at Engelsa 28, Ashgabat, Turkmenistan 744000.

Given the poor mail services in the CIS, you can send your letter (or a second copy) to the Socio-Ecological Union in Moscow or ISAR in Washington, DC. All letters will be delivered by courier to the appropriate officials.

Write to Socio-Ecological Union, PO Box 211, Moscow 121019; phone 7-095-206-8894;

ISAR, 1601 Connecticut Avenue NW, Suite 301, Washington, DC 20009; phone (202) 387-3034, fax (202) 667-3291.

For more details on the situation as well as a copy of the Turkmenistan Ministerial resolution opening the 1993-4 international hunt, please contact via e-mail Eric Seivers at lorax@glas.apc.org or Mary Carpenter at isarmos@glas.apc.org.

TRASHING CENTRAL ASIA

BY ERIC SIEVERS

Environmental activists in the central Asian republics of Kazakhstan and Tajikistan need help. Kazakhstan faces increased industrialization, while Tajikistan is offering its wildlife to wealthy foreign hunters.

Kazakhstan's economy relies on mining and mineral processing, for which it unfortunately uses inadequate, highly polluting equipment. Eastern Kazakhstan probably suffers more industrial pollution than any other area in Central Asia. Even though ecological concerns are often raised in the local press, and even though almost all urban dwellers suffer from pollution-related illnesses, an economy shackled to industry makes few politicians ready to suggest real change.

As in other areas of Central Asia, critical public participation in social issues in Eastern Kazakhstan has declined due to economic and political conditions. Dozens of non-governmental organizations and citizen groups have thrown in the towel in the past two years. Despite a lack of resources and no local or foreign support, a few groups and dedicated reformers still remain.

One ironic ecological advantage of centralization was that it kept large areas of land "undeveloped." A serious environmental problem is the building of private homes that ignore zoning laws and involve little planning. Kazakhstan has announced that it will pick up 20% of the tab for construction of any private home and give tax breaks to encourage construction.

Because of their rich resource base, Kazakhstanis may soon join Arab neighbors as some of the wealthiest people in the world. Of course, there will be an environmental trade-off to acquiring this wealth, but that is not yet a popular topic of conversation. Furthermore, the social situation in the country guarantees that the bulk of any wealth will be held by the elite few.

Despite its wealth, Kazakhstan currently has difficulty meeting the energy demands of its population. Energy comes mostly from coal (almost 80%), some from gas and hydro, and 1% from Kazakhstan's only nuclear plant, in Aktau, on the Caspian Sea.

Kazakhstan is banking on developing its oil for export and uranium for a domestic nuclear program. Last summer, President Nazarbaev hosted representatives from multinational oil companies. They signed accords on exploration in the Caspian Sea. The affected area was given official protection in 1974 because it is a fragile and shallow breeding ground for several species of Caspian fish.

As elsewhere in Central Asia, wildlife in the republic of Tajikistan is being devastated by hunting. The central Asian republics are not parties to the Convention on International Trade of Endangered Species. An inter-republic working group of zoologists has been formed to address this issue. They have dedicated themselves to collecting information and documentation, but ensuring their security precludes them from taking this activity much further. Activists are seeking a foreign agent to represent their concerns, both at home and abroad. In addition, they need some basic equipment to continue their initiative.

Ideas or contacts relating to this issue are desperately needed. We also request that international organizations interested in addressing this problem contact us before taking action, as the political situation in the area is delicate.

Lisa Tracy, of the Pacific Environment and Resource Center in the US, relates the following story.

"I am working with the Siberian Forests Protection Project, based in California. While I was at a conference on sustainable forestry in Montreal, Canada, I met and spoke with General Director Mukhamedov of Tajikles. At that time he encouraged me to come hunting in Tajikistan, and gave me a list of animals that foreigners can hunt. When I asked him, Mukhamedov insisted that none of these animals is rare or dying out, and that a hunt would pose no danger whatsoever to the animal populations. However, I would like you to see this list and evaluate for yourselves whether the hunt will endanger any important animals.

Mouflon Sheep

"Mukhamedov encouraged me to distribute this list to all of my hunter friends in San Francisco. I explained to him that I knew no hunters, and that the people I knew would prefer to go to Tajikistan to see its beautiful animals, and that if [they] were killed, no one would want to come to Tajikistan. He is quite a friendly and approachable person, so you may want to lobby him."

Here is a sample from the list of animals targeted for hunting, with the appropriate "price" in US currency for each one.

* Tien Shan bear (threatened): $2,000
* Mouflon sheep (endangered): $18,000
* Urial (endangered): $5,000
* Wild hog: $500
* Ibex: $1,000

The list explains that "prices may vary depending on sex, age, and trophy values."

Contact General Director Mukhamedov at 734025 Dushanbe Ulitsa Shota Rustaveli, 22, Tajikistan; phone (3722) 22-69-52. His home telephone number is 27-77-66.

For more information about what you can do, contact Lisa Tracy, Pacific Environment and Resource Center, Fort Cronkite, Building 1055, Sausalito, CA 94965; phone (415) 332-8200; e-mail perc@igc.apc.org.

This report was compiled for Ecostan News, an electronic news service providing English language reports about the environmental movements of Karakalpakstan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan. To access this network, contact Eric Sievers at his e-mail address, lorax@glas.apc.org.

Ecodefense!

Ecodefense!, in the Baltic Sea region, and Rainbow Keepers, based in Novgorod, are taking direct action on behalf of the environment in Russia. Ecodefense! formed in 1990; Rainbow Keepers was born this year.

Current campaigns for both groups include opposition to the construction of nuclear power plants, preventing continued destruction of the ozone layer, and opposing chemical dumping in the Baltic Sea. Rainbow Keepers also focuses on protecting endangered animal species.

Both grassroots groups encourage other activists throughout the world to get in touch with them. Contact:

Ecodefense!, Alexandra Koroleva, ul.Nevskogo 30-8, 236041 Kaliningrad/Koenigsberg, Russia, or Vladimir Sliviak, Moskovsky prospekt 120-34, 236006 Kaliningrad/Koenigsberg, Russia; phone 7+0112+437286; e-mail ecodefense@glas.apc.org;

Rainbow Keepers, PO Box 14, Nizhni Novgorod 603082, Russia, or Sergey Fomichov, Tereshkovoy 28a-49, Dzerzhinsk, 606029, Russia; phone +7+8314+043896; e-mail soceco@glas.apc.org or.

Cofanes Stop Oil Drilling

Ecuador's national oil company has halted illegal drilling in the Cuyabeno Wildlife Reserve. However, Petroecuador now seeks to drill only a few miles outside the reserve. An international team of researchers recently stated that the Cuyabeno has a greater concentration of biodiversity than has been found in any other tropical rainforest in the world.

The Cuyabeno lies within the territory of the indigenous Cofane people, whose population has been reduced to less than 700. Huge tracts of their traditional territory have been polluted, invaded by settlers, and deforested as a result of oil extraction activities by Texaco in the 1970s and 1980s.

On October 28, forty Cofanes occupied and temporarily shut down Petroecuador's drilling operation in the reserve. Wearing traditional kusma tunics and dresses, their faces and lance tips painted red, the Cofanes ordered startled oil workers to shut down the drill rig, and to sit down and hear their concerns. Within hours, oil company representatives and high-level military officials arrived by helicopter, and promised to begin serious negotiations.

The Cofanes had three basic demands—that no additional drilling activities be undertaken in the area without their written permission; that the company provide them free access to all work sites and complete information relating to possible environmental and cultural impacts; and that Petroecuador purchase solar panels for the Cofane village of Zabalo.

The exploratory well has since been found to be dry and shut down. Petroecuador provided solar panels for Zabalo, but refused to give the Cofanes access to work sites. The Cofanes' opposition, combined with pressure from the international environmental community, contributed to the company's withdrawal from Cuyabeno. The government company has also withdrawn plans for drilling within Yasuni National Park.

However, Petroecuador still intends to proceed with drilling operations a few miles outside the reserve, well within Cofane territory. International opposition has already had an impact. The pressure on the Ecuadorian government must be maintained to force Petroecuador to withdraw from the area entirely.

Send your letters to: President Sixto Duran, Ballén Casa Presidencia, Garcia Moreno 1043, Quito, Ecuador.

—RAINFOREST ACTION NETWORK

GAG'M

The Global Anti-Golf Movement (GAG'M), launched on "World No Golf Day" in April, has called for an immediate moratorium on golf course development, the conversion of existing courses to public parks or forests, and an end to financial assistance for golf tourism-related projects.

Golf is now a multibillion-dollar industry involving agribusiness, construction firms, consultancies, equipment manufacturers, airlines, hotel chains, real estate companies, advertising and public relations firms, and financial institutions. GAG'M is calling for a halt to the "Golf Green Revolution" which is turning land into a monoculture of exotic grasses, dependent on huge quantities of water and chemicals. The new alliance rejects the golf industry's claims that it can create environmentally-sensitive courses and deplores the displacement of communities in the name of "an elitist and exclusive resort lifestyle and notion of leisure."

Golf courses provide little employment and occupy around 5.9 million acres worldwide, a figure expected to rise as the golf boom continues in Europe, North America and especially Southeast Asia.

GAG'M is compiling a directory of international groups concerned about golf course construction. To add your name or obtain GAG'M's conference documents, write to Asia Pacific People's Environmental Network (APPEN), 19 Jalan Kelawai, 10250 Penang, Malaysia; fax +60 (4) 375705.

—THE ECOLOGIST

ACTIVIST VICTIMS OF VIOLENCE SPEAK OUT!

Following the NFN's First North American Temperate Forest Conference in Burlington, VT, about 40 activists invaded the local office of Senator Patrick Leahy. Pictured here are activists who have suffered violent attacks. Left to right: Darryl Cherney (he and Judi Bari survived an assassination attempt in 1990 when Bari's car was bombed because of their environmentalist-worker alliances and Redwood Summer organizing), Michaela (crying) and Maya Oleson (their house was burned down suspiciously the night before the demo. Oleson is an outspoken pagan and Earth activist who was on the NFN's Conference Committee), and Steve Taylor (Taylor's family house in Missouri was bombed in 1970 because his father was involved in the protection of endangered rivers). Leahy is on the Senate Judiciary Committee. Activists confronted his aide on harassment and violence toward non-violent activists, and told him in no uncertain terms that the grassroots environmental movement is overwhelmingly opposed to both NAFTA and Option 9. —Orin Langelle Photo Langelle/NFN

Cover-up?

Suspicion Rises in Leroy Jackson's Death

BY KIMBERLY DAWN

New Mexico activist Leroy Jackson's mysterious death in early October is still unsolved. Jackson was a co-founder of Dine CARE, the Navajo environmental group fighting to save the Chuska Mountains. He had been receiving death threats from timber industry goons prior to his death. Jackson's body was found rolled up in a thick blanket in his van nine days after he disappeared. Three weeks later the coroner's office released a toxicology report stating that Jackson died of an allergic reaction to methadone. Friends and family were shocked and disbelieving as Jackson was never known to use drugs. Aside from occasional migraines, he was considered by his physician to be in excellent health.

New Mexico State Police and friends continue to dispute the date the van was first seen. Police claim that on October 2, a hiker saw the van parked at the overlook on US 64, 20 miles east of Tierra Amarilla, while friends and local activists contend that they drove by the same place on several occasions during the nine-day period and never saw the van. In response to media inquiries, state police plan to re-interview at least one witness and are searching for others.

Yet another discrepancy in the police report is the vanishing stains on the back seat of Jackson's van. A Denver Post reporter claimed to have seen several large reddish-black stains on the upholstery. When confronted, state police wouldn't comment on whether the stains were blood. Although a spokesman said there was a logical explanation, he declined to elaborate. The next day reporters from the Santa Fe New Mexican examining the van didn't see any signs of blood, only small stains that looked like they could have been coffee. The same reporters also claim that the upholstery appeared to have been recently cleaned. State police later said that they had found a small amount of blood under Jackson's body and on one of the outer door handles of the van.

Sam Hitt of Forest Guardians, a grassroots group also fighting to save the Chuska range, is hiring a private investigator and US Representative Bill Richardson has requested that the FBI investigate Jackson's death. "In addition we still encourage a broader investigation into the affairs which concerned Mr. Jackson during the past two years," said Adele Begay, Jackson's widow and co-founder of Dine CARE. "Specifically the way in which forestry is conducted on Navajo land, and more generally the way in which resources on American Indian lands are exploited."

To contribute to a private investigation, contact Forest Guardians, 612 Old Santa Fe Trail, Suite B, Santa Fe, NM 87501; to send a donation to Dine CARE write PO Box 121, Tsaile, AZ 86556.

ORGANIZER TARGETED IN ARSON ATTACK

A Letter from Michaela Oleson

Dear Friends,

On November 14, 1993 my home here in northwestern Vermont was burned—a hate crime based on fear and loathing.

The Native Forest Network (NFN) convened the First North American Temperate Forest Conference in Burlington, VT, November 11-14. The Eastern North American NFN office organized this important event. The conference provided a forum for indigenous peoples, forest dwellers, activists, biologists, NGOs, and networking and strategy sessions for vital ongoing forest campaigns.

I have been working in the NFN office and writing for the revolutionary ecology magazine *The Alarm*. I am one of many on the conference committee. On the last day of the conference (shortly after a Native American tree planting ceremony) my house was set ablaze.

My house was one hour northeast of Burlington. It was a two-story handmade log cabin below a mountain in a large field. We were surrounded by acres and acres of wild wood. Residents of the area include black bear, eastern coyote, red fox, woodpeckers, many kinds of snakes (including the rare timber rattler), tree frogs, butterflies, etc. The region is home to the grand sugar maple, red swamp maple, ash, silver and white birch, poplar, and chokecherry. The forest floor teems with blue cohosh, trout lily, trillium, cinnamon fern, horsetail, and a multitude of wild flowers. The indigenous people of the area are the Abenaki, the People of the Dawn.

The land my home was on was a Nature Center dedicated to the worship of the Earth/Nature/Spiritworld/all that is holy in the universe. We had many celebrations, gatherings, ceremonies, etc., all in the realm of the divine. It was a place people could come to join hands and hearts. The center ran for five years. Coming here changed many people's lives. It was a home for many to rest, play, dance, sing, hug trees, network...

My family and I have been environmental activists for many years. For years we worked in the anti-nuclear arena. Of late we joined Earth First! and the Native Forest Network. Being an activist has been the most spiritual work I have done. I have been honored to keep company with the bravest, dearest, sweetest, loving, caring, devoted warriors on the planet for most of my life. Bless them all! Keep up the work, my tribal family.

For nearly five years people from the local community (Franklin County) have been working overtime to remove us from our homestead. We filed a case with the Human Rights Commission a couple of years ago. We have experienced prejudice because of our religion (Pagan), lifestyle choices, political outlook, etc. We have been threatened with physical harm and death.

Recently (since just before the NFN conference) militant Christian activity has been blooming locally. Many right-wing Christians are trained in "Spiritual Warfare" which involves psychic/physical attacks on your enemy. It is war with the intent of taking the land for Christ and illuminating the land with God's love and power! In their eyes only their Christianity is worthy and valid. Nice wholesome folks, eh?! I'm sure Jesus would be aghast.

For many years activists have been harassed, beaten up, bombed, had homes burned, etc. Violence is constantly used against non-violent Earthpeople. Looks like the "burning times" of the European Renaissance and the Roman Catholic Inquisition are back in new forms. Hold onto your hats and brooms, kids! It's gonna be a rough ride.

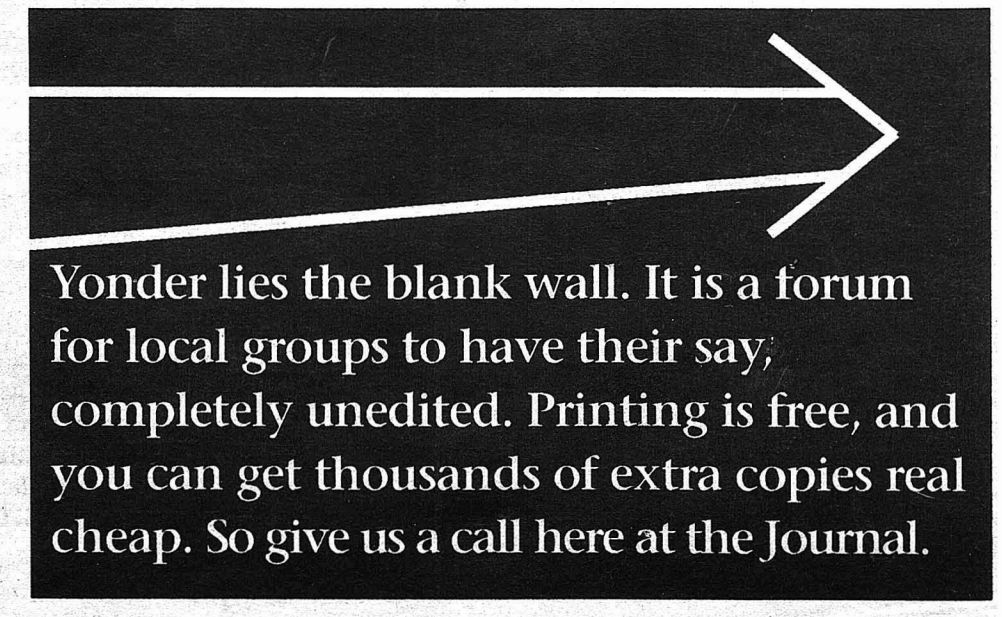
The list of violence toward activists is long. No one will forget the bombing of Judi Bari and Darryl Cherney. They lived! A woman in Florida had her throat cut and breast burned with cigars because she was fighting an incinerator. She lived! Folks in Maine and Oregon had their homes burned down a few years ago. They lived! Last year in Tasmania, just after the First International Temperate Forest Conference, an activist couple's recycling center was burned. They lived! No life was taken during the fire at my home, but we lost everything.

There are people among us who are "plants" for the negative powers-that-be to watch us, rat on us, spy on us, hurt us. I feel sorry for these people, with no inner power or joy in life, that they need to participate in covert activity to destroy Earthpeople who worship and work to bring wholeness back to our Great Mother.

Folks from the Wise Use Movement: I will meet you in the dreamtime. We will dance until our feet bleed, sing like a hurricane, and the voices of the ancestors of this planet will speak the Beauty Path to your hearts. Secrets run patriarchy. The Goddess has nothing to hide. She exposes her genitalia in the face of humanity.

Blessed Be
Peace in the Warzone
Michaela Oleson

Contributions should be sent to Michaela at POB 8456, Burlington, VT 05402.


Yonder lies the blank wall. It is a forum for local groups to have their say, completely unedited. Printing is free, and you can get thousands of extra copies real cheap. So give us a call here at the Journal.

Native Forest News *Special Edition*

NATIVE FOREST NETWORK

TEMPERATE FOREST ACTIVISTS UNITE!

Take the Forests Back!

Following the first North American Temperate Forest Conference in November 1993, the Native Forest Network (NFN) is targeting several multinational corporations responsible for global temperate forest destruction. NFN's corporate campaigns focus on destructive logging, woodchipping and hydro-electric projects affecting native forests in the temperate zones. These campaigns include: ending logging by Weyerhaeuser and Hyundai in Siberia and the Russian Far East; tackling pulp and paper giants Champion International, Daishowa and Mitsubishi, who are woodchipping forests across the world; and working with Indigenous resistance to Hydro Quebec's massive river diversion and dam projects.

NFN is organizing international actions against these corporations. Long-term goals for corporate campaigns include developing a pulp and paper campaign focusing on the entire industry. NFN is alerting US and Canadian consumers to destructive Weyerhaeuser and Hyundai activities regarding Russian Far Eastern forests and the Siberian Tiger. NFN also supports efforts to get the Vatican off Mt. Graham, Arizona. *Please check the calendar for specific dates and contacts. Check the centerfold for campaign information. NFN is developing corporate campaign packets available in 1994. Contact NFN Resource Centers for these materials (see back page for addresses). Feel free to write NFN if you have other corporations to profile.*

NFN brings Weyerhaeuser's Russian logging plans home to Corporate Headquarters in Washington. Photo: Flynn

Great Whale Cree Chief Mathew Mukash was one of the Native American representatives at the Conference. Above, Chief Mukash speaks at the First Whapmagoostui Gathering held this past summer near Hudson Bay in Northern Quebec. Photo: Langelle.

ACTIVISTS EMPOWERED BY NFN ROADSHOW

The NFN North American Roadshow completed a 40-city tour with a finale performance at the North American Temperate Forest Conference in Burlington, VT. The tour reached over 2500 people directly and thousands more by word of mouth. The tour snaked its way up the west coast, through the Northern Rockies, across the plains, and up the Appalachians, setting fires of activism throughout. The folks who attended the shows were shaken out of their daily lives and taken into a forest of abundant life. Through slides, speeches and music, the forests of Chile, Siberia, Australia/Tasmania and North America were presented with a plea for campaign support. Petitions were signed, working groups formed, and the network set to work. In Pied Piper fashion, activists (both new and old) followed us to the crescendo of the roadshow: the birth of the NFN on this continent. At the end of the conference, thousands of people became active in the network. Next October, before the International Conference in Missoula, MT, there will be another roadshow in the Wild West. If you would like to help the road show come to your town, please contact the NFN Representative nearest you *(See back for addresses).*

First North American Temperate Forest Conference

Burlington, Ndakinna (Vermont), rocked with radical energy as over 400 forest activists attended the NFN's first North American Temperate Forest Conference in mid-November. Representatives of First Nations added their wisdom, including the Lil'Wat, Coalition for Nitasinnan, Protectors of Mother Earth, Mohawk, Algonquins, Great Whale Cree, and Abenaki.

This year's conference was convened by Anne Petermann and Orin Langelle with the blessing of the Abenaki Nation.

Canadian ecologist Dr. David Suzuki gave the keynote speech. Anishinabe activist Winona LaDuke, well known for her indigenous rights and environmental work, addressed the crowd on Friday. Winona spoke of struggles against logging on reservations and made a plea for activists to work closely with indigenous peoples on their campaigns.

North American activists reported on local and regional forest issues and campaigns across the continent. International reports on the Sierra Madre (Mexico), Siberia, Chile, Scotland, and Tasmania were also heard. A panel discussion on international strategy was followed by a panel entitled "Native People Speak." Discussion circles on a variety of topics were held on Sunday. The conference ended with a tree planting ceremony led by Mohawk Jake Swamp.

Conference attendees dispersed to a three-day strategy session in the Green Mountains to boil down the results of this groundbreaking conference into workable campaigns *(see calender for action plans).*

Temperate Forest Action Plan

The Native Forest Network's Temperate Forest Action Plan was created at the 1992 International Conference in an attempt to bring together local, national and international temperate forest campaigns. For too long the wood production rhetoric of the multinational timber companies has been directing forest policies worldwide.

The Action Plan covers a number of campaign strategies that delegates at the 1992 Conference felt would give direction to local, national and international campaigns. At the 1993 strategy session we accepted the Action Plan as a working draft and made a committment to further refine it. *(For copies of the Plan, send $10 to Southern Hemisphere NFN.)*

NFN invites all to participate in the creation of a working Temperate Forest Action Plan. We hope that it will act as a unifying manifesto for all of us working for temperate forests across this planet.

Stay tuned for information on the 1994 International Conference in the Wild Rockies next November !

NATIVE FORES

1. Caledonia

The once-extensive forests of Europe were cleared by the same imperial processes that deforest the globe today. Nowhere in Europe is this better known than in Caledonia, now known as Scotland.

Deforestation in Caledonia started with the first human settlement and has been exacerbated by successive waves of colonization. A period known as the "clearances" ended only 80 years ago and resulted in the eviction and destruction of the native people and forests. The Caledonian forest has been reduced to one percent of its former range and the dispossessed native people of Caledonia scattered all over the globe.

The struggle to heal Caledonia involves extensive reforestation and land reform – the return of stolen land. One particular struggle of international dimensions is centered upon the estate of Mar Lodge, in the Cairngorm mountains.

The remnant ancient forests are failing to regenerate because of overgrazing by unnaturally high deer populations. Mar lodge is managed as a hunting estate for the international elite. Mar Lodge's current "owner," John Kluge, a billionaire industrialist from the US, has refused to sell the land, despite good offers from conservation groups. The campaign to take back the land continues.

Destination: Foreign greedheads.
Contact: Europe NFN

2. Siberian Far East

The *taiga* of Siberia covers 2.3 million square miles containing one quarter of the world's standing forests. These forests are habitat for the world's largest feline, the endangered Siberian (or Ussuri) Tiger.

Of particular concern is the increase in logging in the Primorsky Region. In particular, the Bikin River Basin, home to the indigenous Udege people, has been targeted by South Korean multinational Hyundai. Since 1989, Hyundai has been exporting 300,000 cubic meters of timber annually from the Russian Far East from massive clearcuts.

US multinational Weyerhaeuser has now entered the scene and is negotiating to log 415,000 cubic meters annually with a guaranteed lease of 90 years. Thanks to international pressure by temperate forest activists, Weyerhaeuser has backed off from plans to log in the pristine Botcha River Basin, but still intends to log on the adjacent Nelma Plateau and in the Koppi River Basin.

Destination: Sawlogs and pulp to South Korea and Japan, pulp to US
Corporations: Weyerhaeuser, Hyundai, Dallesprom (Russian timber monopoly)
Contact: Northern Hemisphere NFN, Pacific Environment and Resources Center (PERC), Taiga Rescue Network

3. Tasmania, Australia

The Great Western Tiers

The escarpment forests and alpine communities of this ecosystem provide habitat for all of Tasmania's mammals and seventy species of bird, including the Wedge-tailed Eagle. Temperate rainforest is found here. Local groups have united to create a 28,000-hectare *(1 hectare = 2.47 acres)* national park proposal and are struggling to keep loggers and woodchippers at bay. NFN staged international demonstrations in the spring of 1993 and succeeded in delaying logging of the Tiers. The Tasmanian Forestry Commission has cost taxpayers AUS$500 million since 1942.

The Tarkine

Northwest Tasmania contains the largest area of temperate rainforest in Australia, yet less than one percent of the region is adequately protected. The proposed Tarkine Wilderness Rainforest World Heritage Area covers 350,000 hectares and contains a wide range of forest, moor, heathland, coastal and karst (cave) communities. Over 240 sites of cultural significance to Aboriginal Tasmanians are threatened by forestry and mining operations. Other areas of high wilderness value include the little-known Henty and Heemskirk Wilderness Areas. Since the advent of woodchipping in the early 1970s, extensive areas of rainforest and eucalypt forest have been clearfelled and converted to plantations. The Tarkine itself remains threatened by logging, roadbuilding, mining and arson. Over 14,000 hectares of native forest are clearfelled every year across Tasmania. The Groom Government is planning three new export woodchip mills,to double the annual export quota to six million tonnes and to export raw sawlogs.

Destination: Woodchips to Japan, sawlogs to domestic, Asian and European markets.
Corporations: North Broken Hill Peko Ltd., Associated Pulp and Paper Mills, AMCOR; Gunns Kilndried Timber Industries Ltd.; Deloraine Sawmilling Co. Pty. Ltd.
Contact: Southern Hemisphere NFN

4. East Gippsland, Victoria, Australia

Home to some of the world's tallest trees, the wet eucalypt forests of this area are estimated to contain only another three years of timber. Logging of pristine catchments and rainforest continues to threaten endangered species such as the Tiger Quoll, Square-tailed Kite and Powerful Owl. 400 logging jobs are subsidized at an annual cost of AUS$3.7 million to Victorian taxpayers while East Gippsland forests are clearfelled and exported.

Destination: Japan
Company: Daishowa
Contact: Concerned Residents of East Gippsland, So. Hemisphere NFN

5. British Columbia

The land called "British Columbia" (BC) represents one of the last frontiers for the industry. It retains some of the largest intact temperate rainforest in the world as well as incredible biological and social diversity. BC provides fifty percent of Canada's forest products. The destructive forestry practices have earned it the reputation of "Brazil of the North."

All of BC is unceded stolen native land. Native lands have been designated "crown" land and put into the tree farm license system that gives logging companies free rein to destroy native sites and forests.

The destruction of BC's forests is condemned internationally. In April, the BC government opened 72% of Clayoquot Sound to logging by BC's largest timber company, Macmillan Bloedel (MacBlo). Clayoquot Sound is 260,000 hectares of forested islands, fjords, and mountains on the west coast of Vancouver Island. The Nuu-cha-nulth nation, the true owners of the land, were not consulted while the BC government invested $50 million and became MacBlo's largest single shareholder. Over 800 people were arrested in the summer of 1993 blockading roads. Activists have received excessive fines and prison sentences while MacBlo is rarely prosecuted for its disregard of BC's scant forestry laws.

Traditional people from the Lil'wat nation and Qwa Ba Diwa nation continue to challenge the theft of their lands. Ecosystem annihilation and indigenous rights are issues that cannot be separated. Real enforcement of the law and returning the land to the people would result in an equitable solution for all life.

Destination: Japan, US, Europe
Corporations: MacMillan Bloedel, Interfor, Canfor, Fletcher Challenge
Contact: Friends of Clayoquot Sound, Independent State of Qwa Ba Diwa, Terra Prima!, Sovereign Lil'Wat Nation

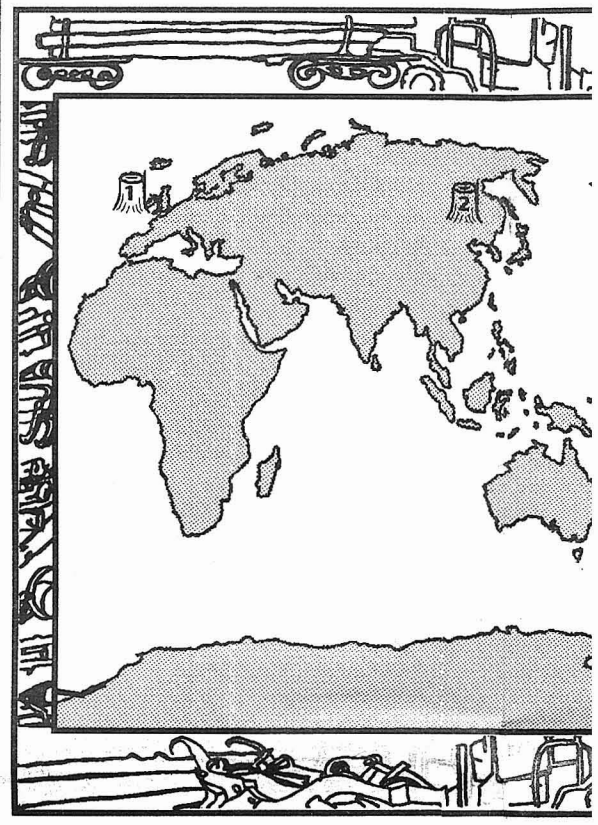
6. Chile

Chile is relatively new to the world pulp and paper scene, but is rapidly catching up with other countries. Since 1975, over 1.5 million hectares of native temperate forest have been cleared for woodchips and replaced by plantations of Monterrey/Radiata pine. Annual woodchip exports have risen to over three million tonnes, ninety percent of which are sent to Japan. New legislation will further encourage landowners to clear native forest for plantations. Illegal exports of Araucaria and CITES-listed Alerce trees still occur.

Destination: Native and plantation woodchips for Japan, Sweden and Finland.
Corporations: Forestale Anchile Ltda/Daio Paper Co.; C. Itoh and Co.; Forestal Tierra Chilena/Mitsubishi Corp.; Emasil; Forestal Arauco; Forestal Tornagaleones
Contact: CODEFF, Ancient Forest Intl.

CAMPAIGN F

One of NFN's top priorities has been th network to provide support for local gr Temperate Zones. The areas below rep identified by groups present at NFN's r Willoughby in the Green Mountains of V in Tasmania. If you wish YOUR camp please let us know. NFN will promote th regular updates in future issues of Native



WHAT IS THE NATIVE FO

PHILOSOPHY

The Native Forest Network is a global autonomous collective of forest activists, indigenous peoples, conservation biologists and non-governmental organizations. It functions on a consensus basis and is non-violent, non-hierarchical and non-patriarchal. Furthermore, it is non-discriminatory on grounds of race, gender, culture, class or species.

MISSION

To protect the world's remaining native forests be they temperate or otherwise, to ensure they can survive flourish and maintain their evolutionary potential.

A Working Definition of

Forests are more than trees, they contain a community of species: fungi, flowers, insects, understory plants, and a host of wildlife. They are reserves for biodiversity. Native forests contain indigenous species in varying degrees of succession, and various states of health. Native

N HOTSPOTS

is been the creation of an action-based or local groups and activists across the below represent the campaign hotspots t NFN's recent strategy session at Lake ntains of Vermont and the 1992 session UR campaign to become part of NFN, romote these campaigns by bringing you of Native Forest News.

IVE FOREST NETWORK?

GOALS

obal 1. To ensure the maintenance of rest biodiversity and ecological les, integrity.

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2. To recognize the rights of indigenous peoples and forest dwellers and to ensure that cultural values of ecosystems are identified and protected.

3. To ensure the maintenance of ecological productivity of natural and modified ecosystems for the benefit of all species.

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LONG-TERM VISION

A viable, unexploited forest community representative of indigenous species.

nition of Native Forests

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forests should be self-sustaining by maintaining biological diversity, ecosystem resiliency, and ecological processes. A plantation is not a native forest. Plantations or tree farms vary in their ability to regenerate native forest ecosystems and are established to meet human demands.

7. Pacific Northwest US

The Pacific Northwest (PNW) was once covered by ancient forests with 2000 year old trees. Over 95% of the original California redwoods have been logged. Most unprotected ancient redwood groves, including Headwaters forest, reside on land controlled by the multinational MAXXAM Corp. Louisiana-Pacific (LP) and Georgia-Pacific (GP) continue liquidating second- and third-growth redwood areas.

Only five to eight percent of Oregon and Washington's original forest remains yet 13 billion board feet of wood is extracted each year. One quarter of the PNW cut is shipped overseas as unprocessed wood products, making Washington the world's largest exporter of raw wood products. Weyerhaeuser and Plum Creek are the PNW's largest exporters of both old-growth and second-growth forests. President Clinton's PNW Forest Plan, Option 9, would clearcut forty percent of ancient forests on the west side of the Cascades, and permit roadbuilding and logging in pristine roadless areas. Option 9 would drive at least 100 species to extinction and offers no protection to forests on the east side of the Cascades.

Destination: Sawlog and pulp for domestic and international markets, primarily in Asia.
Corporations: Plum Creek, Weyerhaeuser, GP, LP, Pacific Lumber Co., North Pacific Paper Corp./Jujo Paper Co., Oregon Chip Terminal Inc./ Daio Paper Corp., Kanematsu Ltd.
Contact: Western North America NFN, EPIC

8. Northeastern US

The majestic lands that were once the eastern forests have been cleared twice since colonization. With deforestation came the extirpation or extinction of wolverine, catamount, caribou, elk, wood bison, wolf and countless other species.

Today these forests are at a turning point. The tree-covered landscape is on the verge of reverting to an ecologically intact ecosystem. The maturation of these forests has attracted the timber industry, which is wetting its appetite in anticipation of this new feast.

Industries in Maine and New Hampshire are beginning a log export business liquidating 24 million board feet annually. In Maine there is a push to begin logging on the tiny public forests comprising only five percent of the state. These lands are stolen from tribes such as the Abenaki who have inhabited the region for 10,000 years.

We must allow these forests to recover and "rewild." If cut again, we will lose the eastern forests forever.
Destination: International and domestic sawlog and pulp markets, to Canada, Turkey, China, Thailand and Japan
Corporations: Georgia-Pacific, Boise Cascade, Scott, International Paper, Champion Intl., Bowater, James River
Contact: Eastern North America NFN

9. James Bay, Quebec, Canada

This dam and river diversion project commenced in 1972 for the generation of hydroelectric power by the multinational Hydro-Quebec. It has so far inundated over 10,000 sq. km of land, drowned over 10,000 Caribou, and destroyed the traditional lifestyles of thousands of indigenous people, particularly the Cree. The completed project would include a 100-mile-long dike constructed to separate James Bay from Hudson Bay to create an enormous freshwater reservoir for the sale of water to the southwest US. This region is the largest wilderness area in eastern North America.
Company: Hydro-Quebec
Contact: Great Whale Cree, Eastern North America NFN

10. Sainte-Marguerite-3

The SM-3 hydroelectric project calls for the construction of a third dam on the 300-km-long Sainte-Marguerite River, and the diversion of the Carheil and aux Pekans rivers, tributaries of the salmon-rich Moisie River. It will be the 14th hydro project in Nitassinan, the 700,000 sq. km homeland of the Innu Nation. These projects have already flooded almost 11,000 sq. km of unceded, stolen territory. The Quebec government and Hydro-Quebec have no shame as they destroy the land and culture of the people who have lived here for over 9,000 years.
Company: Hydro-Quebec
Contact: Coalition for the Nitassinan, Solidarity with Native Peoples, Eastern North American NFN

11. Central/Southeastern US

The Central Hardwoods region is currently on the chopping block. Scattered and sliced by urban sprawl, mixed deciduous and coniferous forests stretch the length of the Ohio River from the Atlantic to the Mississippi. Migratory songbird populations are crashing and other species are imperiled. The Tennessee River basin was initially dammed by the Tennessee Valley "Authority" (TVA) to produce energy to build the bombs dropped on Japan. Now these same waterways are used to export woodchips back to Japan. Thanks to the Army Corps of Engineers, these lands are being handed over to multinational corporations on a grand scale.

What is considered now as the "working forest" of the Southeastern United States is actually rolling hills of monoculture plantations. Pesticides, herbicides, genetic treestock engineering, heavy high-tech machinery and the grid of roads all cut deep scars into the landscape. The US Forest Service has handed over the lands to regional pulp mills. Champion Intl.'s murder of the Pigeon River has a legacy as the largest EPA case of dioxin contamination.
Destination: South Korea and Japan
Corporations: Champion Intl., Weyerhaeuser, MacMillan Bloedel, Boise Cascade, Scott, Dongheay, Bowater
Contact: Southeast North America NFN

12. Cove/Mallard, Idaho

Cove and Mallard are two contiguous roadless areas inCentral Idaho's Nez Perce National Forest. Comprising almost 130,000 acres of unfragmented temperate forest wilderness, these wildlands are part of the lower 48's largest intact forested ecosystem, the Greater Salmon/Selway. Timber sales slated for Cove/Mallard add 145 miles of new road and remove 81 million board feet, all in some of the last unprotected habitat for wolves and grizzly bears. This destruction would cost US taxpayers over $6 million.

A two-year direct action campaign by Earth First!, the Ancient Forest Bus Brigade, and others has slowed roadbuilding. Highland Enterprises, the roadbuilding contractor, has filed a SLAPP lawsuit against Cove activists, seeking $300,000 in damages.

Several conservation groups have filed a lawsuit against the US Forest Service for an injunction against the logging. The first actual logging commenced in October on the Grouse sale.

Scores of activists have been arrested in direct action protests and many are facing jail time. A Grand Jury investigation has been convened to harass activists.
Destination: Domestic markets
Company: Bennett Lumber, Elk City
Contact: Northern Hemisphere NFN

13. Southwest US/Mexico

This mixing zone of temperate and tropical species is under attack. Loss of over ninety percent of riparian forests threatens hundreds of sensitive species in Arizona and New Mexico. Navajo Leroy Jackson died under dubious circumstances while defending old-growth pine stands of the Chuska mountains on the Navajo reservation.

In Mexico, indigenous Tepehuan and Tarahumaran leaders are murdered every week in the Sierra Madre. Illegal logging, roadbuilding, corruption, and drug trafficking are tied to violent political bosses (or caciques) and threaten the last remaining old growth and tropical Chihuahuan biodiversity.

Mount Graham, sacred mountain to the San Carlos Apache, is an isolated "sky-island" ecosystem in SE Arizona's Pinalenos Mountains. Its 10,720-foot summit hosts boreal forest species and 18 endemic species.

The University of Arizona is building a $70 million astronomical observatory. The Vatican is a partner in this boondoggle that would desecrate a sacred site. The Apache Survival Coalition and Mount Graham Coalition have waged a long campaign, convincing several of the project partners to drop out. Two small telescopes have been built with major delays and cost overruns.
Corporations: Navajo Forest Products Industry, University of Arizona, Max Planck Institute (Germany), the Vatican, Arcetri Observatory (Italy).
Contact: Southwest North America NFN

1994 NFN ACTION CALENDER

FEBRUARY	MARCH	APRIL	MAY	JUNE
11-15: Hyundai Action Southern California Contact: Northwest NFN	Lent Action Fast for Mt. Graham Contact: Southwest NFN Spring March to NY with Innu for SM-3 Contact: Eastern N. Amer. NFN 6-10: Cove/Mallard Campaign Week in DC Contact: Wild Rockies NFN	April Fools Day Intl. Day of Rage against Hydro-Quebec SM-3 Action Contact: Eastern N. Amer. NFN	Intl. Day for Siberian Forests Contact: Northwest NFN	Cove/Mallard Field Campaign Resumes Contact: Wild Rockies NFN
---------- Wolf Surveys/Actions in Cove/Mallard – Contact: Wild Rockies NFN ---------- *Clearcut* Released – Copies Available to Activists – 415-398-4404 ---------- Auto Show Actions against Mitsubishi, Hyundai, Ford, etc. ----------				
JULY	**AUGUST**	**SEPTEMBER**	**OCTOBER**	**NOVEMBER**
Earth First! RRR Action Champion Intl. Contact: Southeast NFN Weyerhaeuser/Hyundai Action Expedition to Russian Far East	*Take a break, would ya? Get into the woods!*	NFN Wild West Roadshow Contact: Northwest NFN	NFN Wild West Roadshow Contact: Northwest NFN	NFN International Conference Missoula, MT "Attacking the Multi-Nationals" Contact: Wild Rockies NFN

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Wish YOU made it to the First North American Temperate Forest Conference?
We can't change that, but you can order a copy of the proceedings. It's the next best thing to being there!
Send $15 to: Eastern North America NFN, POB 57, Burlington,VT 05402

NFN Supporting Organizations

Ancient Forest International, POB 1850, Redway, CA 95560
Association Lihuen Antu, 9211 Epuyen, Chubut, Argentina
Citizens Trade Campaign, 600 Maryland Ave, SW #202W, Washington, DC 20024, US
Coastal Waters Project, POB 1811, Rockland, ME 04841, US
Comite Nacional Pro Defensa de la Fauna y Flora (CODEFF), Casilla 3675, Santiago, Chile
Concerned Residents of East Gippsland, PO Bonang, Victoria 3888, Australia
Conservation Council of Western Australia, 79 Stirling St, Perth , Western Australia 6000
Ecotopia Earth First!, POB 34, Garberville, CA 95542
EPIC (Environmental Protection Information Center), POB 397, Garberville, CA 95542, US
Environmental Studies Dept. UVM., Bittersweet Bldg, 159 So. Prospect St., Burlington, VT 05401, US
Environmental Youth Alliance, PO Box R1240, Sydney, NSW 2000
Forest Campaign Group, c/oAustralian Conservation Foundation, Level 1, 88 George St, Sydney, New South Wales 2000, Australia
Forest Partnership, PO Box 426, 431 Pine St., Burlington, VT 05402
Friends Of Clayoquot Sound, PO Box 489, Tofino, BC V0R 2ZC Canada
Foundation for Deep Ecology, 950 Lombard, San Francisco, CA 94133, US
Fund for Wild Nature, POB 42496, Tuscon, AZ 85733
Greater Gila Biodiversity Project, PO Box 742, Silver City, NM 88062, US
Green Corps, 156 St. Paul Street, Burlington, VT 05401
Green Web, RR #3 Saltsprings, Pictou County, Nova Scotia B0K 1P0 Canada
Green World Center, PO Box 45, Highgate Springs, VT 05460
Greenpeace International, 1436 U St. NW, Washington, DC 20009, US
Greenpeace New Zealand, Private Bag 92507, Wellesley St, Auckland 1, New Zealand
Heartwood, PO Box 402 Paoli, IN 47454, US
Industrial Workers of the World, 1095 Market St., #204, San Francisco, CA 94103, US
Merck Forest & Farmland Ctr, PO Box 86, Rupert, VT 05768
Mount Blue Coalition, Box 241 Manset, ME 04656.
Mount Graham Coalition, 666 Pennsylvania Ave. SE, #200, Washington, DC 20003, US
New England Coalition for Energy Efficiency and the Environment (NECE-3), RD1 Box 730, Cambridge,VT 05444
PERC, Fort Cronkhite #1055, Sausalito, CA 94965, US
Preserve Appalachian Wilderness (PAW), 117 Main St. Brattleboro, VT 05301, US
Queensland Conservation Council, PO Box 238, North Quay, Brisbane, Queensland 4002, Australia
Rainforest Action Network, 450 Sansome, Suite 700, San Francisco, CA 94111, US
RESTORE the North Woods, POB 440, Concord, MA 01742
S.A.V.E., Stockton State College, Pomona, NJ 08240
Save America's Forests, 4 Library Ct. SE, Washington, DC 20003
Scottish Tree Trust, 30 Edgemont St., Glasgow, Scotland, UK, G41 3EL
South East Forest Alliance, Shop 1, Gloucester Walk, 88 Cumberland St., Sydney, NSW 2000, Australia
Southern Appalachian Biodiversity Project, PO Box 3141, Asheville, NC 28802, US
SPARC, c/o Billings Student Center, UVM, Burlington VT 05405
Taiga Rescue Network, Ajtte, PO Box 116, S-962 23 Jokkmokk, Sweden
Tennesseans, Alabamans & Georgians for Environmental Responsibility (TAGER) PO Box 8811, Chattanooga, TN 37411, US
The Wilderness Society, Brisbane, 97 Albert St., Brisbane City, Queensland 4000, Australia
Together Foundation for Global Unity, 130 S. Willard St., Burlington VT 05401, US
Vermont Coalition to Save James Bay/Vermont Fair Trade Campaign, 21 Church St., Burlington VT 05402
VT Natural Resources Council (VNRC), 9 Bailey Ave., Montpelier, VT 05602, US
V-STEP, c/o Billings Student Center, UVM, Burlington VT 05401
Wildlands Project, PO Box 5365, Tucson, AZ 85703
Wild Earth, PO Box 455, Richmond, VT 05477, US

NATIVE FOREST NETWORK MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

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FULL ADDRESS:

PHONE(S):

FAX: E-MAIL:

ORGANIZATIONAL AFFILIATIONS:

MAIN AREAS OF INTEREST:

Membership to the Native Forest Network is free. With a contribution of $20/year or more, you will become a sustaining member, and receive the NFN quarterly newsletter. As a non-profit, the NFN depends upon the generosity of its members to survive.

__$100 __$50 __$35 __$20 __$10 __other:

VOLUNTEER: __10 hrs/month __10 hrs/week __Occasionally __other:

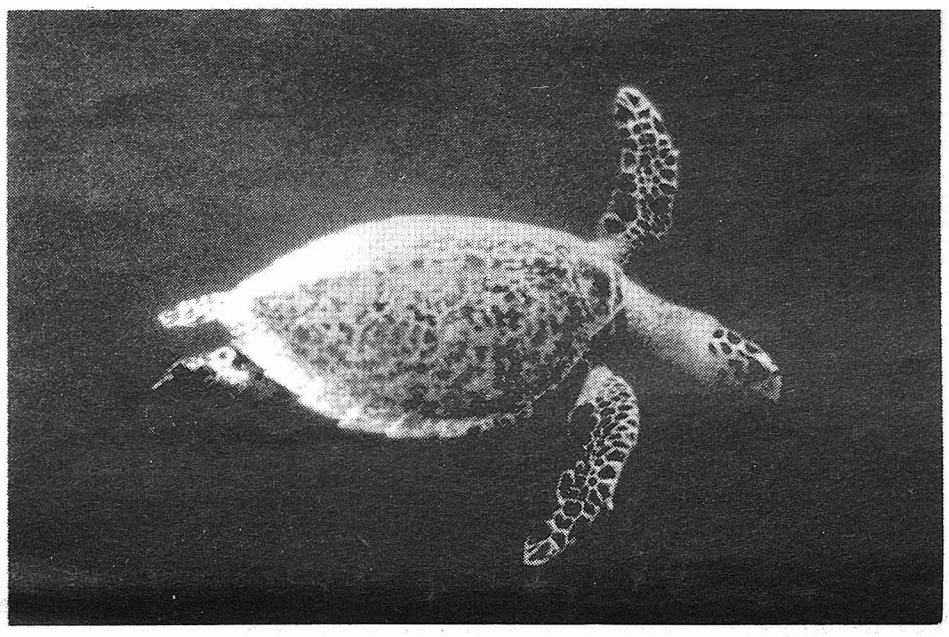
I CAN:
__act as a liaison for my organization
__participate in non-violent protests and rallies
__provide photographs, video, art __write letters
__write articles __make phone calls
__do clerical work __organize events
__conduct research __other:

Please send contributions and forms to:
Native Forest Network, P.O. Box 6151, Bozeman, MT 59771

Activists Rally to Save Sea Turtle from "Free Trade"

BY MARK, EARTH FIRST! OCEANS TASK FORCE

Earth First! Oceans Task Force, Earth Island Institute's Sea Turtle Restoration Project, the Student Environmental Action Coalition, and a coalition of organizations led protesters in five cities around the country to demand that the Mexican government protect endangered sea turtles that share our common oceans. Activists sent a strong, clear message to the Mexican government with spirited protests at consulates in Seattle, San Francisco, Los Angeles, New York and Miami. Activists also protested at the Asian-Pacific Economic Conference in Seattle where the Mexican government petitioned for membership in this newest "free trade" organization.



These most recent protests follow on the heels of a demonstration in San Francisco when President Salinas of Mexico came to sell the North American Free Trade Agreement (see Samhain issue of the *Journal*). At that event, Salinas asked for a private meeting with Earth Island activists.

Outraged over the continued killing of sea turtles in Mexican shrimp nets and the prospect that free trade will accelerate the slaughter, activists turned their anger into action. In San Francisco, the demonstration was complete with an official police chaperone, stickering brigades into the consulate, and the appearance of Chelonia, the 14-foot Trojan sea turtle. Chelonia made her way to Los Angeles, where she joined activists from Last Chance for Animals and Earth First! at the Mexican consulate. In Seattle PAWS and EF!ers presented a letter addressed to Mexican president Salinas to consulate officials. In Miami, the Animal Rights Foundation of Florida led protesters to the consulate. In New York, the crew from Wetlands Preserve and other activists braved the constables and the cold, and have vowed to be back the first Monday of every month until the sea turtles are protected!

In Washington DC, Sea Turtle Project director Todd Steiner met with the ambassador to Mexico who was angered that demonstrations were occurring in five US cities despite the Mexican government's "strong" efforts to protect sea turtles.

Speaking to the press at the demonstration in San Francisco, Amy Harris of the Sea Turtle Restoration Project said "11,000 endangered sea turtles will be caught in Mexican shrimp nets this year alone! Meanwhile, the Mexican government continues to make promises to use TEDs on all of its shrimp boats, but the deadlines have come and gone. If this continues, species like the critically endangered Kemp's Ridley face certain extinction."

Why? Because $100,000 Mexican shrimp vessels are not using $400 turtle excluder devices, or TEDs, on their shrimp nets. TEDs are proven to release sea turtles without significantly affecting the catch of shrimp. TEDs are required on all US trawlers, and a law exists that would embargo Mexican shrimp from US markets. But bureaucrats, eager to see NAFTA become the sick reality that it is, have kept the law from being enforced.

The US market is where Mexico sells the majority of its shrimp. As environmentalists and citizens of the world's largest consuming nation, it is our ethical responsibility to ensure that Mexican shrimpers do not destroy endangered sea turtles and the marine ecosystem—all for our next shrimp dinner. Once again, natural resources and natural diversity are being exploited for the expensive tastes of the first world. In the process, artisanal fisheries and local sustainable use of natural "resources" are destroyed right along with endangered species.

Activists around the country demanded that the Mexican government implement the use of TEDs on all shrimp boats immediately; that the attackers of two women biologists be brought to justice; and that Mexico stop the poaching of sea turtles and development of nesting beaches.

Recently the Earth First! Oceans Task Force joined with Earth Island, and other groups in a petition to the US government to have Mexico certified under the Pelly Amendment for undermining the effectiveness of international treaties to protect endangered sea turtles. The amendment obligates the President to take action, including the possibility of trade restrictions against Mexican fish and wildlife products if they are certified. The Sea Turtle Restoration Project is also suing the Feds to enforce PL 101-162, the sea turtle protection act. This law would embargo Mexican shrimp until it is turtle safe, require a sea turtle treaty to be adopted by "turtle nations", and require all 80 nations importing shrimp into the US to enact the use of TEDs or face embargos.

We can not let "free trade" be allowed to drive these ancient and majestic creatures further towards the brink of extinction. The Clinton administration and the pro-NAFTA environmentalists say that the environmental side agreements will help protect sea turtles. But NAFTA contains a loophole called "extra-jurisdictional process standards," which would not allow the US to ban the import of shrimp that is caught by killing sea turtles. Likewise, laws that ban the import of tuna caught by killing dolphins will be prohibited under NAFTA.

In the post NAFTA atmosphere, it is extremely important to develop relationships with Mexican environmentalists to watchdog US companies and US markets (i.e., shrimp imports). In a meeting with president Salinas of Mexico, STRP demanded that Mexican environmentalists be allowed to monitor the use of TEDs on Mexican shrimp boats, as already required by Mexican law.

The ancient sea turtles, born from a time before the age of the dinosaurs, have swum through the waters of a changing planet for 150 million years. Evolved to survive, they have watched the dinosaurs come and go, the continents shift and re-form, but they were not prepared to combat the human greed that fuels their destruction. We will not sit by and watch government bureaucrats drive this majestic creature, and the small communities that depend upon it, into extinction—all because of ignorance and corruption. We need your help to build a strong voice for these ancient creatures before they are gone. Long live the sea turtles!

There's lots you can do.

- Organize a demonstration
- Fax your complaints to the consulates
- Start a stickering and flyering campaign around town (contact us for materials)
- Send letters regarding the Pelly certification to:

Ronald Brown, Secretary of Commerce, 14th & Constitutional Ave. NW, Washington DC 20240;

Bruce Babbitt, Secretary of the Interior, 18th & C streets, NW, Washington DC 20240.

For information or to obtain a video or activist kit, contact Mark of the Earth First! Ocean Task Force at (415) 759-7801 or Earth Island Institute at (415) 788-3666.

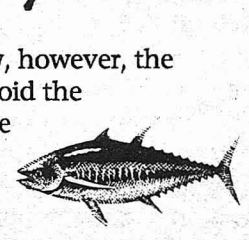
Dolphins Kidnapped by Shedd Aquarium

In November, the Shedd Aquarium of Chicago captured three Pacific white-sided dolphins off the coast of southern California for its new $48 million dolphin exhibit.

The capture did not go uncontested, though. An organization called Whale Rescue Team worked toward stopping it, first with a lawsuit, and then through attempted direct action in the open sea.

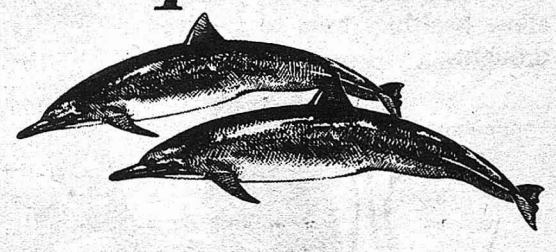
Whale Rescue was founded a year ago by Peter Wallerstein, a former Sea Shepherd organizer. The group has rescued marine mammals caught in gill nets, and also helped critters that have been wounded or in need of medical attention.

After the Shedd Aquarium officially notified the National Marine Fisheries Service of its intent to capture up to 15 dolphins in November, Whale Rescue Team activists moved into action. Planes and boats reconnoitered the announced capture site, while others kept an eye on the ships that normally capture dolphins for Sea World in San Diego.



By flagrantly breaking the law, however, the Shedd Aquarium was able to avoid the Whale Rescue Team and capture the dolphins. For one, the dolphins were kidnapped at least 50 miles outside the zone delineated in the Shedd permit. The capture team also apparently tracked the dolphins using radio tags, a violation of the Marine Mammal Protection Act. With the tags, it was a simple matter to find the dolphin pod—and a capture that should have taken weeks instead only took hours.

The dolphins were taken to a boat yard in San Diego and placed in a holding tank 30 feet wide and 8 feet deep. There they are to go through "acclimation," a euphemism for the process of breaking the dolphin's wild spirit so they will eat dead fish and accept human presence. The numbed dolphins will be transferred to Chicago to spend the rest of their lives in captivity. The average captive dolphin will live for 4.8 years.



The Shedd aquarium has labeled the dolphins 12, 13 and 17. The Whale Rescue Team has named them Hope, Faith, and Freedom. Even if these dolphins are put in jail for life, Whale Rescue is determined to make sure that no more marine mammals will be captured off the coast of the United States in the future. If you want to help out please contact Whale Rescue at (310) 456-1760, or write to 115 S. Topanga Canyon Blvd #29, Topanga, CA 90290.

Jonathan Paul contributed to this article.

Un-Managing Forest Health

BY ASANTE RIVERWIND AND KAREN COULTER

Various individuals and groups have recently been pushing the need for forest restoration. Some of these proposals opt for a so-called "win-win" solution to the forest "debate"—"they" get the timber and "we" get fire-proofed/thinned "restored" forests. But "they" are still the same timber-biased USFS hierarchy which has wrought much of the ecological destruction, leaving in their wake a stump-ridden trail of broken laws, perishing wildlands, vanishing habitat, imperiled wildlife, boom and bust timber-dependent communities, and rising corporate profits. Now that the public attention has been focused on their abysmal antics, they have suddenly become "ecosystem-management" oriented. But let's look at the real situation in Oregon's Blue Mountains, typical of many of the drier "eastside" forests).

Decades of clearcutting and high-grade logging (removing the largest trees), fire suppression, and domestic livestock grazing have left much of the forests seriously in need of restoration. However, after years of intensive field observation, it is apparent nature has been continuing its ecological processes in an attempt to correct—or hold off—the impacts of human-caused destruction. Drought, insects, and disease are all components of the forest ecosystem. When they intensify in impact it is usually of a long-term beneficial nature.

In the Blue Mountains, as in other forests in Idaho and eastern Washington, the recent insect "infestation" and drought were nature's way of thinning the formerly high-graded forests. Many previously cut areas, primarily on north slopes and moist watershed drainages, had produced stands too dense for the logging-depleted soils to support. Soil nutrient levels and erosion runoff had all taken their toll on the microorganism communities. Fire normally would have helped keep the regrowth thinned, but the US Forest Service policy of suppressing fire has severely curtailed its role in the forest ecosystem. So nature, with the combined effects of insects and drought, began a thinning process of its own.

Researchers are currently looking into the probability of a millennia-long symbiotic relationship between drought, insects and trees. During drought periods the defoliation caused by insects induces the tree to withdraw energy from needle production—instead storing it up as starch reserves in the root systems. These reserves allow healthier trees to survive drought.

Currently, with depleted soils, overexposure to the sun, and dense understory thickets, several factors are at work at once (actually many more within the web of things natural than we could ever perhaps fully understand). Dense understory thickets occur primarily in the openings created by high-grading. They offer shade to exposed forest soils, necessary for the growth and survival of a healthy microbial community. They also stabilize eroding soils. But by their nature these thickets are weak—they are nature's quick fix, a bit like a poultice band-aid. They often succumb to disease and insects, adding nutrients to depleted soils and providing habitat for many forest species, especially invertebrates and fungi.

The remaining mature and old growth trees in these high-graded areas are usually quite resistant to insects, disease and fire. They have survived decades or centuries of natural cycles, as well as recent human destructive intrusion. Within these forests some diseases always occur, as necessary components of forest ecology. They range from mistletoe, which provides habitat for goshawk, food for porcupine, etc., to various root rots and fungal diseases which provide habitat for cavity nesters and the many invertebrates upon which they feed. In short, the forests will not succumb to the effects of drought, bugs, and disease.

Humans, however, are an infestation nature has yet to deal with successfully (as evidenced by the Sahara forest now desert, the former riparian wonderlands of the Tigris and Euphrates river forests, the forests of Ireland.... The list of former forests, wild grasslands, wetlands, river systems and other natural areas adversely affected by human civilization's "manage-ment" is too lengthy to fully attempt here).

Within the forests, decades of fire suppression by the US Forest Service (USFS) have given rise to the fear of "catastrophic" fires. Fuel loads have accumulated to unprecedented levels, from forest duff layers, dead lower limbs of understory trees, and many leaning and falling layers of dead trees. These levels are now dangerously excessive. They can be likened to having dammed back a raging river for decades—yet the inevitable dam collapse awaits. While fire's return to these besieged ecosystems is as necessary as it is inevitable (and will come whether we prepare the forests for it through restoration or not) it will not be as dire as the profit-serving catastrophic images painted by the USFS, industry, politicians and the media. The Yellowstone fire of 1988 is a graphic example.

Fire burns in leaps and erratic bounds, dancing with changes in stands, topography and wind currents. With forests so full of natural obstacles—ridges, creeks, lakes, rock outcrops, cliffs, changing wind currents and weather—and human-created obstacles of roads, skid trails, and clear and partial cuts, we need not fear losing the forest ecosystem to nature. (The hard part is preventing the government from "salvage" logging in its wake.)

Some stands too, such as lodgepole, naturally tend to burn at catastrophic stand replacement levels. We must take care to recognize that nature has always sculpted the forest with fire, creating a mosaic of different age classes, species, stand density, and openings. We need to ensure there is adequate forest cover throughout the forest ecosystemso that if one or more areas burn, others will exist to replace them. Currently, with so little old growth habitat left, all forest habitat becomes essential.

We mustn't succumb to the hyped—and even potentially real—fears of catastrophic fires or other natural destruction of the last old growth forests. Allowing the current USFS to conduct "restoration/thinning" within old growth "units" is a prescription for ecological disaster. Under the guise of protecting old growth stands, plans have been put forward to "lay down the understory" by thinning to prevent "fir encroachment" in naturally occurring ponderosa pine areas, or to deal with defoliated "dead and dying" trees. The government has even proposed that the USFS be given the go-ahead to expedite this "restoration" due to the "crisis" nature of these forest areas. Such "solutions" have several problems:

— The management of the USFS has not changed. It remains directed by the same officials responsible for much of the destructive logging, livestock grazing, fire suppression, and Animal Damage Control activities which have unraveled the forest ecosystem to the brink of collapse. The Forest Service's primary guiding motivation continues to be "getting out the cut," reflecting the agency's timber harvest/volume mentality. We cannot allow the agency's newly acquired ability to enunciate ecological rhetoric to disguise the reality of its ongoing destruction in the forests. In the USFS's Orwellian logic reminiscent of "newspeak", stump wastelands equal "forest health" and forest death equals "salvage". We also must be wary of cosmetic figurehead changes such as Clinton/Gore for Bush/Quayle, Jack Ward Thomas for F. Dale Robertson while it's biz as usual otherwise.

— We cannot assume that all old growth areas which are dying are doing so because of "fir encroachment" or insect/disease "epidemics". Some of these areas would naturally die now, just as insects and disease have natural cycles which peak and fall.

— Thinning (or "weeding") fir from historical ponderosa pine areas would perhaps be fine if we had all or most historic ponderosa pine and fir areas intact—however, we don't. Decades of over-"harvesting" have decimated the forest ecosystem. Continuing wildlife and ecosystem viability have been imperiled throughout the region due to the fragmented, diminished habitat available. There are few old growth forest areas with sufficient multi-storied canopy closure to support the multitude of dependent species, such as pileated woodpecker, goshawk, pine marten and wolverine. To go into these now mixed conifer areas and remove the fir would in many cases further decimate available habitat. Many old growth pine areas naturally have only three to four old growth trees per acre. Cutting out the fir understory in such areas would result in a virtual clearcut. The "leave" trees would be weakened by the soil compaction and ground cover disruption caused by logging machinery. When these effects are combined with the damage to the soil's microbial communities upon whose health the big pines depend, they can cause trees to succumb to high winds as blowdowns.

We have to consider which would be the worse impact to the remaining old growth—leaving the fir or damaging already fragile soils and removing needed canopy closure by logging out the fir. Additionally, cutting the insect-infected understory would not eliminate the insects. Instead it would leave mainly the old growth leave trees for them to feast upon—endangering their continued survival. The same is true for attempts to "remove" disease, root rots, and fungi.

— There is a large discrepancy between current USFS thinning or salvage operations to "protect" areas from catastrophic fire, and real restoration which could facilitate fire's return without irreparably damaging the area's ecosystem. Real restoration would not be dependent on the economics of commercial profits. Harvesting yet more trees from an already over-logged ecosystem under the guise of restoring forest health by labeling them "dead and dying", "disease or insect infested", or otherwise "undesirable" only further unravels the already tattered web of forest biodiversity. There is a great danger that the new eco-speaking USFS would be only too willing to use "restoration".

— Old growth, like anything living in its elder years, is in decline. Old growth stands as they continue to age gradually become weaker, making them more susceptible to the ravages of drought, insects, disease, and blowdown. They do, however, tend to keep their fire resistance while they are yet alive.

Continued on page 28

Dear Miss Demeanor

Advice for the Ecologically Confused

Dear Ms. Demeanor:

First off, just let me say how *delighted* Muffy and I were upon finding a copy of your charming little paper at the Health Food Store! All you brave, brave little people, doing all you can to save the planet, at some considerable cost in personal grooming to judge by the pictures. But no matter. Muffy (Muffy is my dear wife) took the *Journal* to the hairdressers the next day and read the whole thing while waiting for her perm to set up, and she came home *all* inspired with some very definite ideas for changing our lives in a positive, Earth-loving way. For starters, we have instructed Luis (Luis is our groundskeeper) to stop throwing the doo-doo from Avatar and DeGaulle (our championship Schnauzers) into the trash. Instead he is to dig this precious biodegradable material into the soil for the nourishment of the roses (featured in a recent issue of *Better Homes and Gardens,* by the way) on the south lawn. Anna Marie (our maid, French but from a good background) has been told quite sternly that future caviar coming in this house will have to be packed in the eco-friendly, large tins.

Personally, I am seriously considering trading the Ferrari Quattro in on a Land Rover. I know it's a big step down, but there's a crisis going on and all of us must do our part. Green, green, green, that's the ticket!

Now to my questions. First off, Muffy and I were wondering if there were some kind of certificate your charming little group issues in recognition of these sorts of efforts? If so, we really would like to have one and feel we have earned it. It would look so nice hanging on the wall in the study next to the picture of me shaking hands with one of those political fellows, I forget which one.

Secondly, you mustn't think that all is hopeless—you now have the Huntington-Newford Bedstuyvants on the job! We'd like to give your "tribe" (how quaint!) a little boost. We're going to throw a "Green Theme" cocktail party in the near future, and we'd like some of your "tribe people" (I get such a kick out of that!) to come. There will be some real high rollers there, and I shouldn't wonder but that a pretty penny or two may end up flowing into your treasury. Could you, would you, dear Ms. Demeanor, arrange for some selected EF!ers to show up? We'd particularly like to have that shaman fellow, Long Winded Circus, show up. Muffy was so impressed with his work! She said it went on for just pages and pages and didn't make any apparent sense at all, so it had to be profound, because Muffy is no dummy. Please ask him to wear something exotic with feathers and bones.

I'll leave it to your good judgment to select the rest of the invitees. We would like to request, most respectfully, that they have had fairly recent baths and be free of pernicious communicable diseases—if necessary, Muffy and I can offer the use of a shower in the Pool Cabana if they would like to arrive a little early.

Hoping to hear from you soonest! Earth First!

—Clemingsblood Huntington-Newford Bedstuyvant XXVI

Dear Bed Hunting New Blood XOXO:

I am so glad you wrote—how kind of you to invite Earth First!ers to your party. You and Muffy are very generous to part with the assets you have accumulated through some dreadful, Earth-damaging fashion. How wonderful for you to redistribute your wealth to finance critical environmental campaigns throughout North America. If you have not yet decided upon an auctioneer, I can nominate several fine candidates for you to choose from, depending on the degree of intoxication you desire.

I believe the individual you referred to is Lone Wolf Circles, a wonderful guest at any party. Mr. Circles and others will of course bring their drums, so you won't need to hire an orchestra to get your guests dancing. As the gracious hosts you and Muffy no doubt are, I'm sure you will provide a place where the dancers can hang up their feathers and bones when they disrobe.

I wouldn't dream of missing such an important social gathering. I can picture the scene already: a whole group of nude mudpeople jammed into the newly auctioned Ferrari, driving it straight into the pool cabana which you so charitably offered for a shower. That is, if they choose not to drive it into the pool itself. You may be delightfully surprised, as a recent member of our endearing tribe, by just how creative Earth First!ers can be at social events.

Your guests can assist you and Muffy in your rehabilitation into a more low-impact lifestyle, once your estate is tidily demolished and well on its way to natural recovery. I suggest to Anna Marie that she join the campaign to protect bear habitat in the French Pyrenees. She need only trade in her downhill skis for a monkeywrench and no doubt she will be warmly welcomed. It would be a pity for her to miss the French social event of the year!

Address your letters to:
Dear Miss Demeanor
Earth First! Journal
PO Box 1415, Eugene, OR 97440

Penan Fight for Survival

continued from page 1

In all these troubles all these years, we have maintained a big heart. We never hurt those threatening the Penans. For nearly ten years now we have struggled and made blockades to protect the forest. We were arrested and suffered under this government. After having smashed our blockade, the soldiers said "When you are hurt by the bombs, will the white men help you? The white men are just like flies on the shit. They just cause troubles for you but cannot help you. In fact, we in Malaysia know how to make our own airplanes and weapons. How can the white men fight us?"

All the areas around Kerameu, Sengayan and Long Sait have been destroyed and the military is everywhere. The government wanted to confiscate all our hunting guns, even those guns which we traded for with the British a long time ago. We still remember the words of the British: "Once we go back home, the Malay will become your government. If you are in troubles and cannot solve them, let us know." What about now? Do you still remember your words? Don't wait for the New Year! Good, you tell our problems to your big leaders. We have hope in Bill Clinton, that he will think of us now! People in the towns do not know of our troubles, as newspapers and radio do not report these things. Our news goes slowly to you, as our messengers are being threatened with imprisonment. Now we throw all these troubles into your hands! Good, you come quickly, as these troubles arrive like high water in a steep valley.

Thumb printed by 25 Penan leaders.

On the November 2, over a month after the brutal destruction of the Long Mobui blockade, three truckloads of the army "visited" the village. They held a "meeting" to intimidate the villagers into giving information about the whereabouts of the blockade leaders and subdue any thoughts of further blockades. The military threatened to bomb their village if they did not disclose the whereabouts of two reputed organisers. After another of these "meetings" on November 12, twenty people fled the village to hide in the jungle.

The search for the reputed leaders of the blockade has involved the reported payment of $20,000 for their deaths to the headman of Long Mobui (who has not supported the blockades). They are now in hiding.

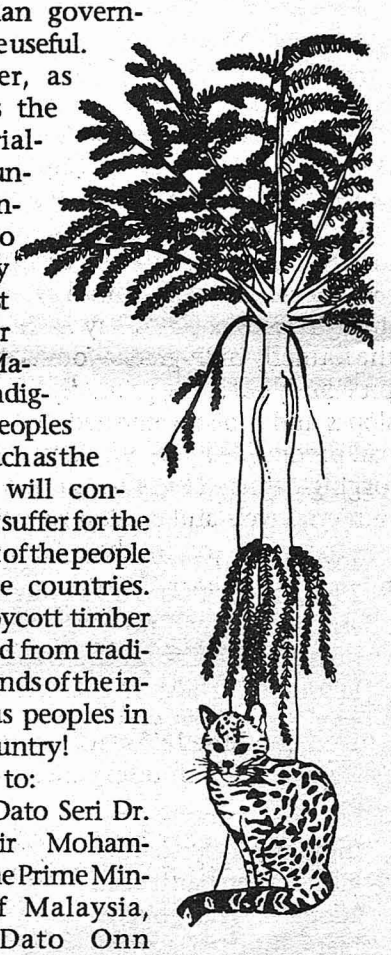
The people are in fear for their lives. International support is needed *immediately* to remind the Malaysian government that the global community is aware of what is happening.

Through the national newspaper, the *New Straits Times*, the Malaysian government has denied any military involvement in breaking down the blockades. Instead, a front page story claimed (falsely) that money raised internationally to help the Penan has lined the pockets of international NGOs.

Interviews with Penan representatives indicate that the people will not give up their land despite the almost unbearable intimidation by the authorities and logging companies. They said: "Right now the blockades are still going on. We know the people there are very powerful. From every village people have come to help. Even though the people are very poor and in a pitiful state, they are still strong."

The Penan urgently request a group or individual, perhaps a journalist, to visit the area to witness the current situation and report it to the world. If anyone has contacts in the media or funds for someone to go there, please contact Anja Light at the Rainforest Information Centre in Australia (phone 066 218505, fax 066 222 339; e-mail: peg:rainfaus).

Please do whatever you can to stop the violence towards the Penan and the continuous violation of their basic rights to their land and culture. Letters to the Malaysian government are useful. However, as long as the industrialised countries continue to buy rainforest timber from Malaysia, indigenous peoples there, such as the Penan, will continue to suffer for the comfort of the people in those countries. Also, boycott timber extracted from traditional lands of the indigenous peoples in your country!



Write to:

YAB Dato Seri Dr. Mahathir Mohammad, The Prime Minister of Malaysia, Jalan Dato Onn 50502, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia;

YAB Tan Sri Datuk Patinggi Abdul Taib Mahmud, The Chief Minister of Sarawak, Bangunan Tunku Abdul Rahman, Petra Jaya, Sarawak, East Malaysia;

The Editor, *New Straits Times*, 31 Jalan Riong, Kuala Lumpur, 59100, Malaysia; fax: 60 3 282 1434.

Correction

Short and sweet. In the Samhain issue of the *Journal*, I reported that Willamette Week, a Portland publication, uses MacMillan Bloedel newsprint. They do not. Their printer, the Tualatin Yamhill Press does, and a misunderstanding about who they supply resulted in the erroneous information being published last issue. Richard Meeker, a well-informed and understanding fellow who is also the editor of Willamette Week, has gone so far as to ask that the printer discontinue its use. My apologies to Willamette Week. Boycott MacBlo everywhere all the time.

—Stumpy

Friends of the Wolf BC Takes Action in the Yukon

BY AL DECKER, FRIENDS OF THE WOLF BC

As Bob Dylan's "Chimes of Freedom" poured through the truck's stereo speakers, the reconnaissance arm of Friends of the Wolf (FoW) arrived in Whitehorse, Yukon Territory, after an 1800-mile journey. When FoW received word in late November that the Yukon government planned to start its second annual aerial wolf-kill ahead of schedule, we rushed into action.

Upon arrival in Jack London country, where men are men and the caribou run scared (as do the moose, bears, Dall sheep, cougars, coyotes, and mainstream environmentalists), FoW conducted three days of groundwork. We located and landed at last year's government base camp, as well as the air strip where the planes and helicopters may be based this year.

FoW has the financial and human resources to continue this campaign throughout the winter. We have set up headquarters in the Whitehorse area, and are in a good position to defend the wolves from this greedy and ignorant onslaught.

The Scum Also Rises

These so-called wildlife enhancement programs are immersed in corrupt politics. A government source revealed that partial funding for the Yukon wildlife/wolf predation and dynamics study, and for the wolf-kill itself were provided by the Foundation for North American Wild Sheep (FNAWS), an American trophy-hunting group. We confirmed this through FNAWS own "Funded Projects" pamphlet. According to a FNAWS spokesperson, "The wolf [is a] detriment to sound game management." These folks fund all sorts of "environmental improvement" projects so that slob hunters don't have to compete with any predators for their "game." In BC, they have funded forest burn programs to create more browsing territory for ungulates at the expense of the ecosystem. One result of this is to increase the size of the "trophy," because the carbon consumed causes the antlers to grow larger, making bigger horns to put on the wall above the TV.

Government Subterfuge: Nothing New Here

Now that the government has formally refused to adopt the Yukon Wolf Management Plan until at least 1995, many groups and individuals, both in Canada and abroad, will no longer accept the evasive statements coming from the Department of "Renewable Resources" (DRR). The Plan is a comprehensive management policy put together with input from several parties, including First Nations. It is not a truly biocentric proposal, but there would be no wolf-kill going on had it been adopted. The government diverted opposition to the wolf-kill with assurances that it would adopt the plan. Mainstream groups who had counted on the government's approval have been left out in the cold—and it gets mighty cold up here.

Crying Wolf

The Yukon government began its reckless efforts last winter to kill 150 of the estimated 200 wolves in the territory's Aishihik region. Wolves were hunted from a helicopter by a squad of government biologists. Fifty-nine wolves were killed. The DRR claimed that wolves were responsible for falling numbers of caribou and moose. The program is scheduled to continue, with the extermination of 50 wolves a year for the next nine years, beginning this winter. The wolf-kill program is clearly an attempt to scapegoat the wolves for a decade of wildlife mismanagement and create a surplus of game for sports and trophy hunters.

Toying With Nature

The highest recorded number of caribou in the Aishihik is 1500. The DRR wishes to inflate the number to 2500 to attract sports and trophy hunters. Such a high number is more than the habitat can support. Caribou may overbrowse the range as a result, ensuring their own starvation.

Wolf packs in the Aishihik have already adjusted their numbers to accommodate the decline in caribou. The wolf-kill staff found that wolf numbers had fallen 40% from the year before human intervention. There is no need to interfere in the natural balance between prey and predator.

The government's own documents show that between 1981 and 1990, levels of human hunting, mainly sports and trophy hunting, were "unjustified" and that they "could have precipitated and likely contributed substantially to the decline [in caribou numbers]." At the same time, DRR has not accounted for the effects of the particularly severe winter of 1991-92 on calf survival nor for the impact of other predators (bears accounted for 40% of calf-deaths in one area). Adding insult to injury, the government lifted a brief two-year ban on hunting, even though they deny con-ducting this wolf-kill to increase game populations.

Last winter, a former outfitter set out poisoned baits and killed an estimated 50 wolves, as well as dozens of other animals.

Time for Action

The ruling "Yukon Party" is a fascist group somewhere to the right of Pat Buchanan and the left of Mussolini. Party leader John Ostashek and Renewable Resources Minister Bill Brewster are former hunting outfitters, with strong ties to the industry. They have special interests which conflict with the agenda put forth in the Yukon Wolf Management Plan. Their program could kill up to 600 wolves over the next decade. Friends of the Wolf is committed to ensuring that the 59th wolf killed last winter will be the last ever shot from the air in the Yukon.

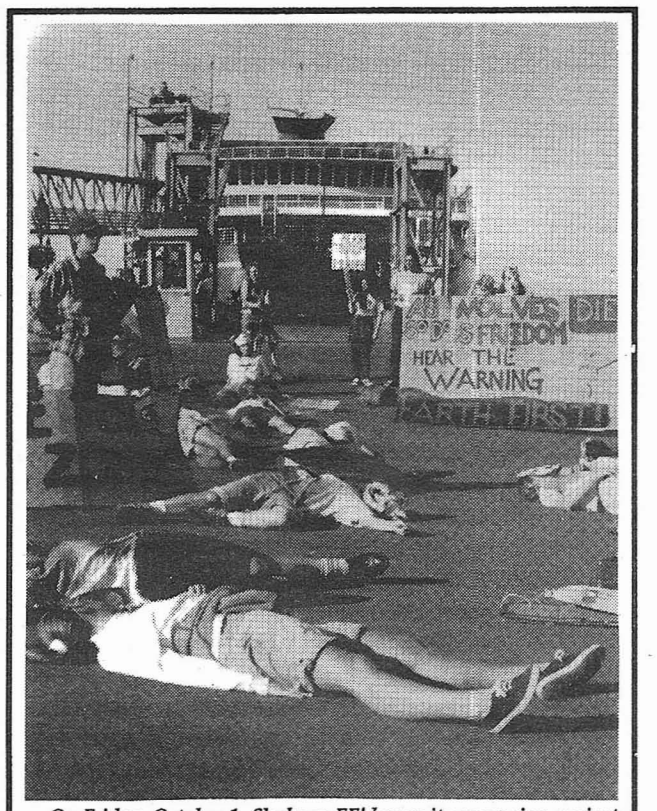
FoW is planning the following actions:

- Producing a documentary which will expose government corruption in the wolf-kill and alert the public to this disaster. The film will be taken on a world tour this spring, to raise international awareness of the issue and promote a tourist boycott of the Yukon.
- Exercising civil disobedience. Fifteen to twenty animal rights activists are on their way to Whitehorse, and more will likely come.
- Intervening directly in the slaughter. The Yukon government will not be able to conduct business as usual this winter.

Not to sound too New Age-ish here, but the most important thing we have going for us is the wolf spirit. Seriously. Strange things have happened here. Last winter the government helicopter had mechanical problems three times, and suffered many hours of down time; the aviation company who broke a contract to fly for FoW sustained a major fire last summer, and went out of business after losing a hangar and office to the merciless flames; the outfitter who poisoned the wolves died this fall when his plane crashed; and the telemetry equipment for tracking radio-collared wolves from government planes was sabotaged in mid November. The Wolf Spirit works in mysterious ways!

Project Wolf!: A Voice for the Wolf

Traditonal methods of publice pressure like boycott campaigns are not always enough. Direct intervention is often essential. FoW has established Project Wolf! as a direct intervention force. Project Wolf! specializes in direct intervention using aircraft and snowmobiles, and makes it impossible for wolf killers to act in secrecy. By following government personnel into the wilderness, Project Wolf! acts as "the eyes of the world."



On Friday, October 1, Shuksan EF! began its campaign against Alaska's Wolf Control Program. A plane full of hunters swept in on a pack of wolves at the Alaska Ferry terminal in Bellingham, WA, and mercilessly shot 25. Blood was splattered on the walls and floors in the gruesome scene. On October 8, fifteen "wolves" died on the floors of the ferry terminal in another dramatization of the ruthless killing which is happening right now!

On October 15 and 22 we held off on the blood and held "The Trial of Governor Wally Hickel." Hickel was assimilated into the pack but then shot by aerial hunters because he was too fat to run away.

We will demonstrate at the ferry terminal for every departure and urge everyone to disrupt Alaska tourism.

Alaska Wolf Kill Begins

BY MICHAEL LEWIS

Alaska Department of Squish and Maim trappers and hunters have killed 33 wolves so far in this year's "wolf control" program, authorized by the Alaska Board of Game. Wolves have been killed in leg-hold traps in an undisclosed area south of Fairbanks, where they were lured to trapping sites with meat from moose killed on the Alaska railroad tracks. State biologists are attempting to kill as many as 150 wolves in this area in an attempt to increase caribou and moose numbers in response to pressure from subsistence and sport hunters.

In recent news stories, ADF&G officials admitted that they actually do not know how many wolves are in this area, but they claim they will conduct an aerial census as soon as sufficient snow has fallen to allow population estimates based on wolf tracks in the snow.

State officials have refused requests from journalists to accompany the trappers, claiming that flying into the bush in small planes and helicopters is "too risky" for the general public. Officials will not release the locations of the trapping sites, though they admit that it is not illegal for members of the public to enter these areas at any time.

Call these numbers and register your disgust.

Alaska State Ferry System: (800) 526-6371

Denali Park Central Reservations: (800) 344-8485

Governor Wally Hickel: (907) 465-3500

ADF&G Commissioner Carl Rosier: (907) 465-4100

David Kelleyhouse, Director, Dept. of Wildlife Conservation: (907) 465-4190

Division of Tourism Director Connel Murray: (907) 465-2012

Tourism Marketing Council (907) 563-2289

See the Samhain *Journal* for addresses.

FoW is also involved in education, networking, and research. We have launched an initiative called the "Continental Wolf Recovery Strategy." The Strategy will bring together scientists, conservationists, and wildlife staff in order to produce a definitive blueprint for long-term wolf recovery in North America.

For more information, contact:
Friends of the Wolf, BC, POB 2983,
Vancouver, BC V6B 3X4 Canada
(604) 290-9256.

Tla-o-qui-aht

BY DAVID POTTER

Clayoquot Sound, a contiguous ancient forest comprising eight major watersheds on Vancouver Island's west coast, is the largest lowland temperate rainforest left intact in the world. It has never been ceded by its Native inhabitants, the Hesquiaht, Abousaht, and Tla-o-qui-aht First Nation, nor have the First Nations been defeated in battle. But today the land is under assault—by chainsaws.

The clearcutting holocaust was unleashed by BC Premier Harcourt when he announced last spring his decision to open up 80% of Clayoquot Sound to the MacMillan-Bloedel Corporation (Mac-Blo) and New Zealand-based Interfor Corporation. Weeks earlier, the BC provincial government bought huge amounts of Mac-Blo stock, thus becoming the company's largest shareholder.

Since the logging began, the Friends of Clayoquot Sound (FOCS) has conducted a nonviolent campaign to block the destruction and to generate worldwide publicity. The First Nations, comprising nearly half the population of Clayoquot Sound, have given permission for the blockaders to be on their land. The logging companies have no such sanction.

Chief Francis Frank of the Tla-o-qui-aht Nation has stated, "First Nations have had direct experience with unsound logging practices... [These have] affected their lifestyle, which is dependent on sea resources."

Nelson Keitlah, Co-Chairman of the Nuu-cha-nulth Tribal Council (of which the Clayoquot First Nations are a part), emphasizes the need to recognize their land ownership. "There has been a continuance of plundering of our resource by corporations, sanctioned by the Province," said Keitlah.

The First Nations have done extensive outreach to gather support. In New York, a delegation won a hearing to lodge a human rights complaint at the UN. In Washington, DC they were hosted by the National Resources Defense Council and met with US politicians. To emphasize that issues of human rights have no borders, they are organizing an international trip with a 60-foot canoe to float from Victoria to the west coast of the US to meet with coastal communities. Additionally, they are sending representatives to Europe to push for a boycott of BC forest products.

The blockading efforts of FOCS this summer have seen over 750 arrests, making it the largest non-violent civil disobedience effort in Canadian history. In a separate effort, the Forest Action Network put up tree-sitters in late September. To stop roadbuilding across a coho salmon feeder creek to the Bolson River, six people sat in trees over a two-week period. Others chained themselves to excavators. Paul Winstanley, an independent treesitter, halted roadbuilding for nine days. He managed to sneak down and disappear, escaping arrest.

While sporadic blockades will continue (despite stiff sentences imposed on the arrestees), the major effort of some groups is shifting toward a global boycott of Mac-Blo and Interfor products. With over 150 "Friends of the Forest" groups around the world, Clayoquot Sound has international support.

Mac-Blo is feeling the heat, but we need to turn it up. Call or write BC Attorney General Colin Gableman (send copies to Premier Harcourt and cabinet members Cull Moe Sihota), Legislative Buildings, Victoria, BC V8V 1X4; phone (800)663-7867 or (604)387-1715. To support the Tla-o-qui-aht First Nations, contact them at Box 18, Tofino, BC V0R 2Z0; phone (604)725-3233. For more information, contact FOCS, Box 489, Tofino BC V0R 2Z0; phone (604)725-4218.

Another Year in the Walbran

BY MICHELLE STEWART

After Terra Prima! waited all summer for road work to start, Fletcher Challenge Canada (FCC) finally appeared this fall. Manipulating the courts once again, FCC successfully lobbied to enter a supposedly protected area. So much for habitat protection! However, it seems that FCC is trying to wait out Terra Prima!; they have not completed the work. We hope to call this a victory, but we have learned better than that—it is only a matter of time before FCC tries to take yet another chunk of Walbran and we'll be waiting.

It seems FCC is trying to improve its public image. They have recently announced an offer of just under 50% of their stock to the public. Fletcher Challenge is a multinational corporation, and one of the largest timber companies in BC. In an attempt to combat the criticism that they are based in New Zealand, they are going to reform Fletcher Challenge Canada into Western Forest Industries. With Canadians owning part of the stock, this little change of name would make it appear that Canadians are profiting from the destruction of BC's forests (AAGH!). The average British Columbian will be proud to tell you of the money they are making from government-purchased MacMillan Bloedel stocks.

In other illogical business news in BC, a new Forest Practices Act has been released. Sounds very official, doesn't it? Mostly a rewrite of previous rules, it also claims the government will become stricter on violations. One interesting thing to note, after reading the many pounds of literature, is how reliant it is on the CORE process. The Commission on Resources and the Environment (CORE) was set up as an advisory to the government—non-binding advice of course, Unfortunately all this reliance on the CORE process is not going to work; at this point the woodworkers and a lot of environmentalists have left the negotiations. The only group profiting from the process is the timber industrys.

FCC has initiated a SLAPP suit against Walbran activists. They have spent three years gathering names, but the SLAPPees will finally have their day in court—pretrial began December 10. This will be the first SLAPP suit to be tried in BC, making it a precedent-setting case.

Terra Prima! is helping the Qui-Ba-Diwa in their fight to regain control of their traditional land and to keep the Walbran safe from further desecration.

Happy Yule to others out there in the struggle; stay as strong as you are. And to Fletcher Challenge: we wish you nothing but suffering and losses for every year to come until you crumble! We are the thorn in your side, as are you to the Earth. We will see you in the woods again and, again we will not go away—and you know this is true. We hope your Yule is filled with nothing (at all). Keep those security guards filled up with coffee, they may soon need eyes in the backs of their heads!

Gray Whale Actions

continued from page 1

and planted himself directly below a tree that was almost completely cut through, to the chagrin of an angry logger. He was arrested within seconds. The arresting deputy directed the logger to stop cutting for all of five minutes, which he seemed to think was sufficient to be sure that more activists weren't about to pop out of the woods.

But as the police protection thinned, and the cops realized that they didn't really care about human life any more than they cared about plant and animal life, activists snuck back in amongst the falling trees, which landed within inches in a couple of cases. On one occasion the loggers themselves were enticed into giving chase. Meanwhile, another earth activist snuck back and came almost close enough to steal a chainsaw. But the logger saw him and rushed back to rescue his beloved piece of technology.

On Wednesday morning, in front of about 20 witnesses, Geoff Conley of G & H Tree Service hit EF! activist Dennis Davie with his truck as Davie crossed the road. Conley stated, "I wasn't trying to hit him—just bump him aside." He then threatened to punch Davie and pulled him to the ground. The sheriffs, correctly identifying whose interests they were there to protect, arrested Davie. Davie plans to file charges against Conley. The truck suffered a broken windshield.

On Wednesday afternoon a judge issued a temporary restraining order on most of the THP, but in his own unfathomable illogic, allowed the loggers to finish the 20-acre section they had started.

The future Gray Whale State Park is 2,318 acres of mixed forests and meadows just outside the city of Santa Cruz. It is contiguous with several other wild areas, including Wilder Ranch State Park, the UC Santa Cruz Nature Reserve, and Henry Cowell State Park. Ron Yanke, a developer from Boise, Idaho, wants to build luxury homes on part of the land and log the rest of it. So far, plans for developing the area have been denied by the county planning department. Last week's logging is only the latest in a series of scams to chip away at Gray Whale. The CDF has been continually issuing 45-day Fuelwood Exemption permits to harvest "dead, dying and diseased wood" on Gray Whale. Last year, an access road to a proposed 73-unit subdivision was bulldozed illegally, allegedly due to a "contractor error."

After having Timber Harvest Plans blocked by appeals and lawsuits for nine years, the developers have come up with a new strategy—they have divided the area into eight separate THPs, hoping to financially overwhelm the grassroots groups by forcing them to engage in eight separate lawsuits at once. Lawsuits have been filed on the Peasly Gulch and Majors Creek THPs. The remaining six THPs have yet to be filed. Money to buy Gray Whale Ranch for the state parks system is specifically provided by the California Parks & Wildlife Initiative, which will be on the fall 1994 ballot.

What to do: Keep in touch with Santa Cruz EF! Get out into Gray Whale and see for yourself what they're up to out there. And next time you're passing through Boise, consider paying Ron Yanke a visit. Maybe he's got a hot tub he'd like to share.

PS: If anyone knows what it takes to get the apathetic masses of neo-hippies that inhabit Santa Cruz impassioned enough to get their butts out into the woods to defend the forests, please drop a line to Santa Cruz EF!

DRIVE HYUNDAI TO EXTINCTION!

BY JAKE JAGOFF

A Call To Action

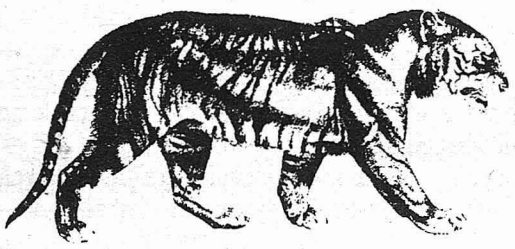
The Native Forest Network (NFN) is kicking off a campaign against Hyundai for forestry crimes in the Russian Far East on Thursday, February 10 with international protests. We are asking activists, environmental groups, indigenous peoples, scientists and concerned planetary citizens to join NFN in targeting Hyundai auto dealerships, factories, ships and corporate offices.

Use your imagination for these actions and demonstrations and remember that this will set the tone for how Hyundai responds. NFN, along with many other groups, is using the Siberian (Usuri) tiger as a symbol of the significance of this unique temperate forest ecosystem. We suggest using the tiger for visuals, sound bites and a general campaign selling point.

In North America, NFN's goal is to apply unending consumer pressure on Hyundai's auto division. We must make it clear to Hyundai that if sectors of the company insist on mining (clearcutting) Russian forests, it may become increasingly difficult to sell their cars. Hyundai's auto division is the fourth largest component of the corporation and our strategy is to create friction between the consumer product divisions and the resource extractive divisions.

Hyundai's Forestry Operations

Since 1989, Hyundai has been making mincemeat of forests in the Sikhote Alin region. Hyundai is clearcutting 150,000 cubic metres annually with a goal of one million cubic metres a year. In 1992, they completed a $60 million log export dock at the village of Svetlaya on the Sea of Japan for shipping raw logs to Japan, Korea and other Asian countries.



Hyundai is negotiating with Russian government agencies and officials to log the upper Bikin River basin. The basin is the homeland of the Udege people. They number 2,000-3,000 and still live a hunter/gatherer existence. The upper Bikin is also prime tiger habitat with eight sightings reported in 1991.

Additionally, Hyundai is involved in tropical deforestation through shipping and container manufacturing. Hyundai is the second largest importer of tropical hardwood into North America from Southeast Asia. They use large quantities of luaun (meranti family) in the production of shipping containers. Hyundai is a company that is responsible for deforestation in both the temperate and tropical zones—in terms of actual logging, financial investment, transportation and construction.

Since Mitsubishi owns 16% of Hyundai Motors, it's easy to see how 90% of the parts used to manufacture Hyundai's cars are produced by Mitsubishi. The connection with logging sheds light on how Mitsubishi is providing capital equipment through their industries, motors, and banking divisions to Hyundai, while the latter provides raw logs back to Japan to supply the ever-increasing wood products markets.

Taiga Ecosystems: The Big Picture

The *taiga* (the Russian name for forests) contains the largest contiguous forests left on Earth. It covers an area the size of the continental US and is twice as big as the Amazon rainforest, comprising 21% of the planet's forests. The taiga makes up more than half of the world's coniferous forests and contains most of the boreal forests.

The taiga encompasses a variety of habitats and forest types—from northern boreal forests composed largely of spruce and fir to the southern pine forests around Lake Baikal, the world's deepest lake. Plant and animal species abound in all of these unique ecosystems, including the Siberian tiger and the far eastern leopard, both of which are severely endangered. Other inhabitants include brown bears, reindeer, sable, mink and salmon. Over 1,200 endemic species are found in the Lake Baikal region alone, underscoring the significance of this natural heritage.

NFN encourages folks to join the worldwide campaign to protect one of the Earth's last great green biomes. Join us on February 10 (and beyond) to ensure that the massive stands of Russian birch, Siberian pine, Daurian larch, and Ayanskaya fir will still be vertical. These forests support Siberian tigers, Himalayan bears and the Udege people, whose wisdom may guide us away from large-scale resource extraction and the inevitable exploitation that comes with it. For more information on the international Hyundai action-Siberian campaign contact the Native Forest Network, POB 60271, Seattle, WA 98160; phone (206) 542-1356; fax (206) 632-6122; e-mail nfn@igc.apc.org and spardee@igc.apc.org. Also, contact David Gordon, Pacific Environment & Resources Center, Fort Cronkite Building 1055, Sausalito, CA 94965; phone (415) 332-8200, fax (415) 331-2722; e-mail perc@igc.apc.org.

Please harass Hyundai by writing and faxing their corporate offices: Hyundai USA, 10550 Talbert Ave., Fountain Valley, CA 92728; fax (714) 965-3816 and Hyundai South Korea, POB 92, Seoul, South Korea; fax 82-2-741-2341. Or call toll free: (800) 826-CARS, (800) 633-5151.

Un-Managing Forest Health

continued from page 24

Rushing in to protect certain reserved areas while ignoring other "sacrifice" areas of the forest ecosystem is in the long run futile. Eventually all old growth that exists now will succumb—while some may yet have centuries, others may be lost much sooner. To ensure forest viability we need to protect large regions containing entire ecosystems, including replacement stands for current old growth areas. We also need to ensure that the integrity of the natural forest within the old growth area is kept intact.

Essentially a complete shift from anthropocentric greed-motivated destruction needs to occur. Major changes within the USFS hierarchy—from top to bottom—need to be made, including restructuring the agency separate from the Department of Agriculture. The Bureau of Land Management needs comparable restructuring. Insisting on ramming a restoration proposal through without changing who will implement it only opens the door to yet more destruction—but this time under the guise of "ecosystem" management. The political prospects for such a shift—other than cosmetic—are at present rather limited. Corporate America has purchased a couple of green-sounding political front men with no real substance. (Even Al Gore never sponsored or authored any significant ecological legislation while in Congress. He only cashed in, both economically and politically by writing his book).

The administration, government agencies, and the media have become quite adept at newspeak, from logging equals forest health, all the way to the "humanitarian" military invasion of Somalia. Profits still remain the bottom line. Option 9 and the threat of congressionally sponsored "sufficiency" language, gutting recourse to legal appeal, loom ominously over the future fate of the forests. And while the past decades of activism have brought us far on these issues, we have a long way yet to go to create substantive lasting changes. We cannot let our desire for immediate solutions or our weariness from fighting cause us to surrender naively to the ecosystem management rhetoric and antics of these front people for corporate U$A.

Continuing public education, persistence, litigation, field research, and direct action when necessary, are all essential. A strategy meeting of the various groups could potentially help strengthen our ability to successfully focus our efforts on ecosystem protection, viability and restoration. Also, a large public demonstration in Washington, DC, including direct action(s), could potentially go a long way toward exposing the plans of the Clinton administration and the Forest Service for the destruction they are. What follows is our draft plan for forest restoration. We would appreciate a constructive critique on this proposal.

Blue Mountains Biodiversity Project
Draft Restoration Plan for USFS and Eastside Forests

Restoration of the US Forest Service and the eastside forests are inextricably linked. Without major substantive changes within the USFS, the agency is too systematically profit motivated and biased toward the timber industry to be trusted to implement the most ecologically sound restoration plans.

Remove current responsible officials from decision/policy making power, from Jack Ward Thomas down to district rangers.

All USFS personnel should be retrained in natural forest ecology—from a biocentric, not economic, perspective.

Protecting natural ecosystems and preserving biological diversity should be the guiding tenets of the agency.

The USFS should be removed from the Department of Agriculture and put under a newly created Department of Natural Ecology, which would also oversee the Bureau of Land Management.

Comprehensive surveys are needed to identify existing species of flora and fauna, their habitat requirements, actual populations and historical pre-European populations. Plans should be implemented to protect existing habitat, restore habitat decimated by humans, and to eventually return wildlife populations to natural historic levels within the national forest ecosystem.

Replant and naturally regenerate existing logged areas with native species.

Facilitate the return of natural fire to the forest ecosystem and minimize the potential adverse effects of its return due to decades of fire suppression and consequent fuel load build-up through the following methods:

— Retain canopy closure at 60% minimum for fir areas and 50% for ponderosa pine areas.

— Prohibit cutting trees more than six-eight inches in old growth areas and limit all cutting in these areas to only that necessary to facilitate the safe return of fire.

— Prohibit cutting in roadless areas, to preserve wildlife habitat.

— Prohibit cutting trees over 15-16 inches diameter breast height in cut-over areas.

— Retain all wildlife snag trees.

— Protect soils and their microbial/fungal communities from the effects of further compaction, exposure, and erosion by avoiding using heavy machine equipment.

— Reintroduce fire in controlled late spring/early summer or fall underburns after adequate preparatory work to ensure that fire does not ladder into the forest canopy.

Prohibit spraying of any pesticides, herbicides, or biocides and any use of chemical fertilizers.

Eliminate predator control programs, bounties on wildlife species, and public lands grazing from national forest lands. Wildlife population control should be based upon natural predation, disease, climatic fluctuations, and other natural causes, including the historical role of humans as predators (hunting, foraging, fishing).

Retrain archaeologists to respect traditional native cultures, with traditional tribal people overseeing and approving any project concerning native peoples.

Retain the full treaty and natural rights of native peoples on all national forest lands.

Provide public education in forest-dependent communities on forest ecosystem viability, cumulative effects, past "civilized" forest destruction.

To get involved, or to receive the full copy of this plan, contact the Blue Mountains Biodiversity Project, HCR 82, Fossil, OR 97830; (503) 468-2028.

Wildlands Shafted in Mendocino NF Plan

BY RYAN HENSON

Originally a trackless 890,000-acre wildland composed of oak groves, grasslands, ancient forests, brush fields, and wild rivers, the Mendocino National Forest today lies despoiled by over 3,000 miles of roads, countless clearcuts, and overgrazing. Conservationists estimate that a mere 216,500 acres of the Mendocino remain in a reasonably wild and pristine state, most in roadless areas which are completely unprotected.

The recently released draft land and resource management plan for the Mendocino only slightly moderates the Forest Service's idolatrous devotion to road building, clearcutting, grazing, and off-road vehicle use. Though the plan admits that the Mendocino's timber sale program is no longer necessary to support nearby communities (if it ever was), and that grazing and off-road vehicle (ORV) use have to be more stringently controlled, it nevertheless details plans to construct more roads, create more ORV trails, log more ancient forest, and generally continue—albeit at a slower pace—the destruction of the past.

Timber Sales, Grazing, and ORV Use to Continue

The Mendocino draft plan calls for the construction of 181 miles of new logging roads over the next 50 years, and the cutting of 22 million board feet (MMBF) on about 2,790 acres of forest annually. Oddly enough, these plans sound moderate compared to the 1980s, when the annual cut averaged 80-100 MMBF per year, and when it was not unusual for thousands of acres to be lost in a single summer of frenzied logging and road construction.

The fate of the remaining 147,000 acres of old growth forest on the Mendocino is further complicated by President Clinton's spotted owl recovery strategy, whose provisions were inexplicably left out of the Mendocino draft plan. While Clinton's sadly compromised and loophole-ridden strategy would mitigate damage to streams, limit road building to a small degree, and give a moderate amount of protection to over 30,000 acres of old growth, its only dramatic positive effect would be to reduce the Mendocino's annual cut from 22 MMBF to an estimated 12 MMBF. Since none of the supposed reserves established by Clinton's reforms would be entirely closed to timber cutting, the effects of logging, road building, and other destructive activities outlined in the Mendocino plan will simply be moderated rather than prevented. As one Forest Service official recently put it, "Clinton's people told us to move right ahead with our projects."

Though the timber sale program is still in flux, the draft plan is quite clear in its approach to cattle grazing on the forest. Though the agency plans to enforce stricter standards to prevent overgrazing, these mitigation measures tend to favor fences over exclusion of cattle to protect fragile areas. In other words, only in the most extreme cases of ecological abuse will the Forest Service consider revoking a rancher's permit, and even then the usual method of enforcement is a simple citation.

When wilderness protection requires wilderness domestication, conservationists should be wary.

To make matters worse, the draft plan also calls for an increase in ORV trail mileage despite the fire risk and threat to plants and animals that this decidedly violent use of public land entails. Most disappointing is the fact that the draft plan only mandates an inventory—rather than the immediate closure—of "non-system" trails, routes that ORVers either built for themselves or expropriated, without the permission of the Forest Service. Currently, over 75% of the Mendocino is open to ORV use.

Roadless Lands at Risk

As part of the Second Roadless Area Review and Evaluation (RARE II) process, the Forest Service identified (or "inventoried") over 141,000 acres of undeveloped roadless areas on the Mendocino, though they inexplicably excluded an additional 74,500 acres. Protecting both inventoried and un-inventoried roadless lands on the Mendocino as wilderness is one of the highest priorities for Coast Range public lands activists.

The future of roadless lands under the draft plan is not very bright. Forest planners propose preserving a paltry 51,415 acres of the Deer Mountain, Elk Creek, Big Butte-Shinbone, Thatcher Creek, Thomes Creek, Brisco Creek, and Saint John Mountain areas exclusively for backcountry recreation. But they carefully excluded 38,250 acres within these areas from protection. Indeed, none of the seemingly fortunate wildlands noted above is entirely protected under the plan, especially since forested areas and other sensitive habitats have been excluded from backcountry designation. To make matters worse, 115,239 acres of the roadless lands are released outright for "multiple use," a move that will allow over 10,000 acres to be lost to logging alone. These threatened lands are in the Black Butte River, Reister Canyon, Grindstone Creek, and Skeleton Glade roadless areas, as well as critical roadless additions to the Snow Mountain and Yolla Bolly-Middle Eel wilderness areas.

As with the draft plan's timber provisions, Clinton's northern spotted owl recovery strategy will help to mitigate the Forest Service's tragic plans for the Mendocino and its roadless areas. For example, the Clinton plan would designate 42,055 acres of roadless lands as "late-successional" (old growth) reserves, and prohibit road construction (but not helicopter or roadside logging) on 35,470 acres of inventoried roadless lands within the Middle Fork Eel River, Black Butte River, and Thatcher Creek "key watersheds" (watersheds specifically targeted by the plan for special protection). In addition, Clinton's plan requires that an exhaustive "watershed analysis" be conducted on roadless areas before logging, road building, or other high-impact management actions occur, a provision that may make logging in extremely isolated and inaccessible roadless areas harder to justify. Unfortunately, Clinton's plan fails to make any roadless area completely inviolate, leaving these wildlands vulnerable until a more enlightened policy is adopted.

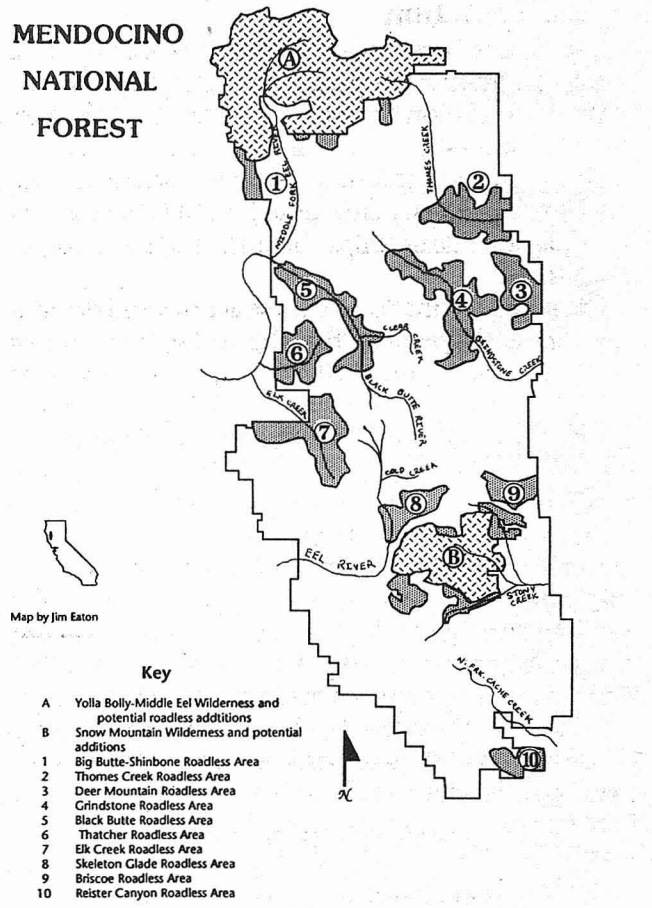
Wild Rivers at Risk

Only three watercourses are recommended for wild-and-scenic status, and these are already preserved within existing wilderness areas. However, the draft plan does propose that Black Butte River and its tributary Clear Creek, two watercourses famed for anadromous fisheries, as well as the ecologically diverse Thomes Creek, be studied for their wild-and-scenic potential. Conservationists are determined to push for the designation of other important streams as wild-and-scenic, including Grindstone Creek, Elk Creek, North Fork Stony Creek, Cold Creek, North Fork Cache Creek, and the Eel River above Pillsbury Reservoir.

Even Protected Wilderness Threatened

Proper management of "designated" wilderness areas is critical to maintaining the health of their ecosystems. This is especially true on the Mendocino, where cattle grazing and recreation use currently threaten many parts of the Snow Mountain and Yolla Bolly-Middle Eel wilderness areas. The Mendocino draft plan, unfortunately, adopts a defensive rather than a preventive approach to protecting wilderness from overgrazing and heavy use by horses and hikers. Instead of removing cattle from the wilderness areas, the plan suggests that grazing be "adjusted," which could lead to the installation of fences, salt licks, and other developments. When wilderness protection requires wilderness domestication, conservationists should be wary.

The failure of the Mendocino draft plan to recognize the inherent value of the forest's roadless lands, wild rivers, ancient forests, and designated wilderness areas is disappointing, but not surprising. And yet, despite the best (or worst) efforts of the Forest Service, there is still a great deal of wilderness left on the Mendocino,


MENDOCINO
NATIONAL
FOREST
EEL RIVER
Map by Jim Eaton
Key
A Yolla Bolly-Middle Eel Wilderness and potential roadless addtitions
B Snow Mountain Wilderness and potential additions
1 Big Butte-Shinbone Roadless Area
2 Thomes Creek Roadless Area
3 Deer Mountain Roadless Area
4 Grindstone Roadless Area
5 Black Butte Roadless Area
6 Thatcher Roadless Area
7 Elk Creek Roadless Area
8 Skeleton Glade Roadless Area
9 Briscoe Roadless Area
10 Reister Canyon Roadless Area

lands that if protected may one day serve as the seedbed for ecological recovery in the northern Coast Range. A blueprint for that recovery is offered in the *Citizen's Forest Plan for the Mendocino National Forest*, a visionary document calling for an end to cattle grazing, innovative restrictions of ORV use, a reduction in logging to 2 MMBF per year, the protection of all roadless lands, and the designation of over four-fifths of the forest as a "wilderness recovery area." The adoption of this plan would help to make the Mendocino the wilderness it was supposed to be when Teddy Roosevelt proclaimed it America's first National Forest Preserve in 1907. This protection is long overdue.

You can help make this vision a reality. Send written comments to the Forest Supervisor, Mendocino National Forest, 420 East Laurel Street, Willows, CA 95988, by January 6, 1994. Request that:

1. *All* roadless lands on the Mendocino be kept inviolate from resource exploitation;

2. The supervisor ask Congress to designate the upper Middle Fork Eel River, Balm of Gilead Creek, Middle Fork Stony Creek, Black Butte River, Clear Creek, Thomes Creek, North Fork Cache Creek, the Eel River above Pillsbury Reservoir, North Fork Stony Creek, Cold Creek, Grindstone Creek, and Elk Creek as wild-and-scenic rivers;

3. No logging or road building be allowed near designated wilderness areas, to prevent their becoming biological islands in a sea of destruction;

4. Horse and foot trails be built through the Mendocino in order to more evenly distribute recreationists and thus help to protect designated wilderness from overuse;

5. Grazing be phased out across the forest, and cattle be removed from the Snow Mountain and Yolla Bolly-Middle Eel wilderness areas as soon as possible;

6. The timber sale program (acknowledged in the draft plan to be of little economic worth) be abandoned completely so that funds can be devoted to ecological recovery;

7. ORV use be phased out on the forest and prohibited immediately in those areas where ecological harm is presently occurring;

8. The Citizen's Forest Plan be adopted as the preferred alternative for the forthcoming land and resource management plan, and that its provisions be implemented immediately. except where they conflict with the more comprehensive demands listed in points 1-7 above.

If you would like to offer further assistance in the fight to preserve the wildlands, please call Don Morris at the Willits Environmental Center, (707) 459-4110, or Ryan Henson at the Northern Coast Range Biodiversity Project, (916) 758-4785.

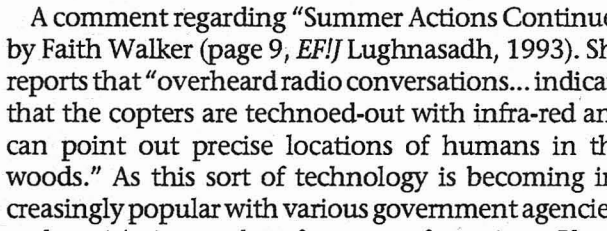
DEAR NED LUDD

is a space for discussion of creative means to fight the powers threatening our wild places. Neither the Earth First! Journal nor the movement necessarily encourages any of these tactics.

A comment regarding "Summer Actions Continue" by Faith Walker (page 9, *EF!J* Lughnasadh, 1993). She reports that "overheard radio conversations... indicate that the copters are technoed-out with infra-red and can point out precise locations of humans in the woods." As this sort of technology is becoming increasingly popular with various government agencies, perhaps it's time to dress for success for actions. Please see enclosed [Army surplus] catalog page of US army poncho—'IR treated.' Believe it. Wrapping yourself up *tight* in one of these will significantly reduce your IR signature. Also, they are lightweight, water-proof, camoflauge, and reusable (cheap too!). For even greater concealment during major activities (requiring overnight stays), consider digging a small grave-like hole (which you *will* refill before leaving) and caching yourself in it. Overhead cover is required, so BYO lightweight, collapsible materials. Guaranteed detection-proof unless the freddies walk on top. One more thought about the sartorial selection process—I've heard people suggest surplus "night camo" fatigues to frustrate starlight type night vision devices. Forget it. The sophisticated third-generation units favored by federal agencies are not so easily fooled. In any case, don't expect any camouflage pattern to work wonders.

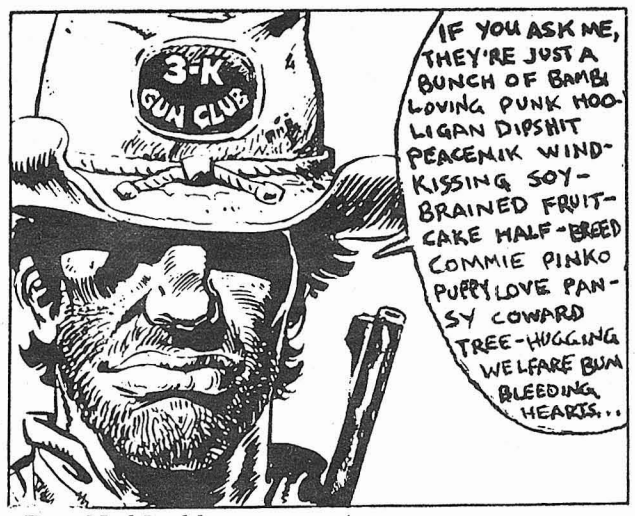
Let's be careful out there,

Sneakers



A handy white wash can be made by mixing lime (type S at your local building supply store), water, linseed oil, and salt. In a five-gallon bucket mix a quart of oil, a handful of salt, water and enough lime to make the whitewash nice and thick (10-20 lbs. depending on amount of water used). Be careful with the lime kicking up dust; it is obnoxious stuff.

The mixture can be applied with thick paint rollers to roadways, walls etc. When writing on roads, letters should be at least three or four feet tall; be sure to leave lots of space between words so your message is easily read. An extension pole on your roller makes things much easier too. A thick whitewash is easily seen in relief through even the best attempts at covering over.


3-K GUN CLUB
IF YOU ASK ME, THEY'RE JUST A BUNCH OF BAMBI LOVING PUNK HOOLIGAN DIPSHIT PEACENIK WIND-KISSING SOY-BRAINED FRUITCAKE HALF-BREED COMMIE PINKO PUPPY LOVE PANSY COWARD TREE-HUGGING WELFARE BUM BLEEDING HEARTS...

Dear Ned Ludd

I must confess to have enjoyed thoroughly the "Tender Tofu Barbeque" in the Eostar 1993 edition of the *Journal*. Succulent and flavorful. I found myself coming into the fall season wanting to make some more, but alas, I was out of kitchen timers. I knew there must be some alternative way to get those charcoal briquets lit just right. After long deliberation, I came up with the following:

Take an ordinary flare. On the tip of it is a black cap, which is ordinarily struck with the lid to light. It might be dangerous to try and light your briquets with the flare going, however, so we want to build some sort of delay.

Cut a circle around the last half inch or so of the flare, taking care not to cut into the highly ignitable black substance. With one lengthwise cut and a little care you can expose the tip and then some.

Next take a cigarette; any prerolled smoke will do so you don't have to splurge. Tape 3-4 wood matches, equidistant around the circumference of the smoke.

These would probably be enough, but better safe than sorry so now take a second row of matches, a whole shitload, and place them just behind the first row. If you go with just one row of lots of matches it tends to snuff things out, so take the time and make two.

Where one places the matches on the cigarette is really a matter of how much time you need before you want your briquets to light. A little experimentation will show you generally can have anywhere from 3-10 minutes, depending on placement and brand.

The final step is to tape the cigarette with matches onto the flare. This should be done so that the smoke is at a right angle and the second row of matches is touching the black tip. You might need to gently cut away some of the tip to make it fit better, but careful, it is brittle and easily broken. Go ahead and use lots of tape, it won't hurt.

Now all that's left is to light the cigarette and place the whole assembly under the briquettes and sit back. It might also help to wrap the flare in a few diesel soaked rags to really get the whole thing going.

Bon Apetit!

Editor's note: before lighting your barbeque, always make sure your matches are in working order.

Earth Night News

The Animal Liberation Front claimed responsibility for planting fire-starting devices at four department stores in Chicago on Thanksgiving weekend because the retailers sell furs.

Police found incendiary devices at Neiman-Marcus, Saks Fifth Avenue, Marshall Fields, and Carson Pirie Scott stores. Small fires ignited at 3 stores, said arson Detective Lee DeMars of the Chicago Police Department.

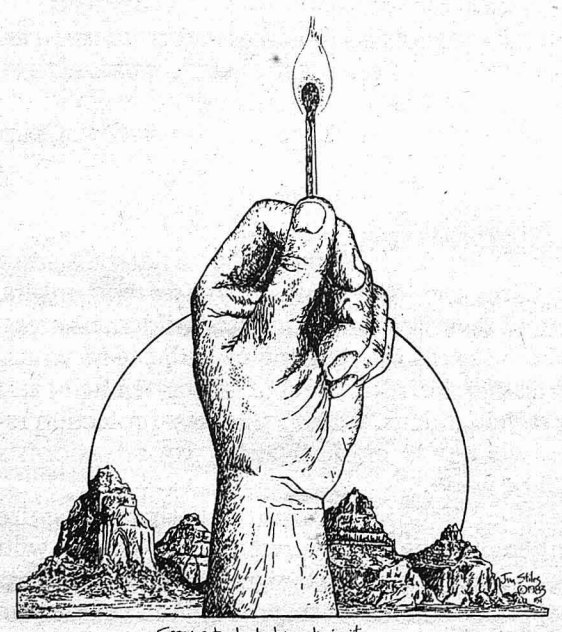
The fires were contained and no one was hurt, police said. All stores reopened within a couple of days.

The ALF claimed responsibility in a faxed message relayed through another group, People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals.

"This action signals the start of a new, more intense campaign of economic sabotage against stores that sell fur," the ALF said. The FBI and police are checking the statement's authenticity.

The Animal Liberation Front has a ten-year history of targeting industries that profit from the misery and exploitation of fur animals.

The ALF also claimed they planted nine devices, although only eight were found. Matchbooks and timers attached to a 9-volt battery stuffed in a brown paper bag were responsible for the overnight fires.



The polar bears on Barter Island, Alaska, will punch your lights out.

The animals have knocked out as many as 26 runway lights in a single night at an airstrip on the island, about 200 miles above the Arctic Circle. The 4,800-foot strip is illuminated with colored lights on 3-foot plastic stems.

"The polar bears seem to be fascinated with these lights as if they were toys," said Peggy Kelly, Air Force radar station chief on the island. "They've been seen punching the lights like a punching bag until they break."

Tracks in the snow show the bears are single minded in their quest. They move in a straight line from one light to another, Kelly said recently.

The bears are normally out on the ice hunting seals this time of year. But villagers landed two whales, so the animals have stayed on the island scrounging for the remains, Kelly said.

The island is dark virtually round-the-clock this time of year.

Armed With Visions

Clear as cut glass
& just as dangerous

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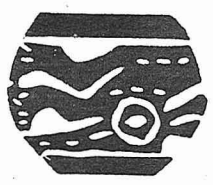
SEND POEMS TO:
Warrior Poets Society
Bancroft & Telegraph
ASUC Box 361
Berkeley, CA 94720-1111

SPIRIT MOUNTAIN

for Bill Patric

Mountains fall at our feet,
leaving a hole in
our heart the sky.
Deep poison enters our bodies,
the bitter earth wound
runs orange water,
prayer ribbons in a dry
wind the breath of our children.
Our hearts follow the mountain,
in pieces, in clear water,
in balance, walking, healing the
holes in the sky.

Gary Lawless



WHERE THE CREEK RAN

Before the houses came, Letty
we'd go running
you, like wildfire, through the forest path
down behind 'ol Miss Bruce's shack
me, chasing behind
feeling the wind pushing past
and crunching brown leaves
flapping up between paws and feet
all the way down to the creek
where ice-cold ripples
snaked through old dead grass,
and you, unleashed
made one huge splash
and came up wet-haired slinky
all-pleased and shivery, shaking off
a thousand droplet spray
across my navy pea-coat
and me screaming "Letteee!"
and you stopping short,
with those cow eyes staring up
from drenched black-hair face,
quiet, like a waiting question,
until one fluffed-up squirrel
darted by, and you
in an instant, a blur
between trees
And only I heard the sound
of the creek
and above, one winter bird sat,
and there
through the trees was the light
in 'ol Miss Bruce's shack
and way off in the field
I heard you
yelping
way before the houses came.

Alena Amnestia

fine flaxen hair.
smooth supple skin.
white perfect teeth.
in candy-coated cafés,
replicated restaurants,
they sit feeding
at burdened tables.
brittle laughter crackles
under hollow eyes.

daily they dance
a peaceful death march.
progressively profitting
they sell happiness cheap
to achieve a formicaed
sightless Dream.

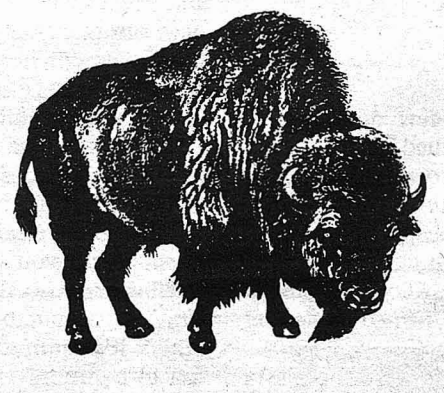
endless streams of asphalt
form them,
driving out the life,
leaving too many
tarmac souls.

Where have all our heroes gone, Daddy?
In a minute son,
the game's almost over....

where?
to the Mountains, the Rivers, the Sea.
hunkered down, wearing Night's cloak,
each a lone Cypress in spirit,
They wait,
watch,
and act.

Somewhere a gear snaps,
the machine coughs,
straining under its own weight
cables break
hydraulics fail
suspension buckles.
the monolith teeters
Time stops.
And the crash deafens those not listening
so they may see.

Al Thieme



That dastardly Governor Hickel,
Whose integrity's not worth a nickel,
Has okayed the wolf kill.
But if wolf blood is spilled
We will slow Alaska tourism to a trickle.

A Wolf Protector

Sacred Circles

(poem for Dave Foreman)

Not for me steel coffins
Or even a pinewood box.
Lay me out in the wilderness,
And let me return to Earth.

Tear my flesh, coyote
And I will run with you
Over the plains.
Take my eyes, eagle
And I will soar with you
In the mountains.
Pick my bones clean, little beetles
And I will flow back
Into the lifestream
To think like a mountain
And sing like a river

Mary de La Valette

DAAANG, MORE LETTERS

continued from page 3

Sam Spiller
Field Supervisor
US Fish and Wildlife Service
Extinction Services

Mr. Spiller et al.

As you have probably heard by now, the U of A apparently cut East Emerald Peak today. I am writing to express my utter disgust at your excuse for an agency. Time after time your gutless biologists have signed off on illegal projects or projects where there was a serious question of legality, such as the issue of re-consultation on the site change of the Mt. Graham telescope. Your flawed (and illegal) analysis of the re-consultation issue has now cost a desecration on Mt. Graham and environmental degradation that could have been avoided. I would not be surprised if it later comes out that you were (once again) illegally instructed from above (Jim Young possibly) to "rubber stamp" the site change. I do not possess the words to express my utter contempt for your office and the personnel responsible for this decision.

Mr. Gatz, who I understand signed off on the letter, should resign immediately. I understand the university is looking for a new spokesperson for the telescope project—that would be a perfect job for Tom. What more can you expect from a "biologist" (biostitute) from NUREC. Hey Tom, there's a few free-flowing streams left in Arizona, get to work doing what you do best—authorizing destruction and then making pathetic excuses for it. I suppose none of this matters because most of you are just in for the money and a comfortable existence.

Southwest Ecological Services will be the new subtitle for the Greater Gila Biodiversity Project. This is not by choice, but by necessity, as your agency is so utterly inadequate and milquetoast that we must do your job for you. Arizona Ecological Services should really be called Extinction Services, because that's what you folks do best. We will be pursuing this matter in Washington, DC, asking for the dismissal of the responsible parties in this illegal fiasco, particularly Jim Young and possibly Mr. Gatz. A check of recently opened Swiss bank accounts might tell us the real motivation behind the FWS rubber stamp of the site change.

I used to have a good deal of respect for you people. My confidence in your abilities as the agency responsible for the enforcement/implementation of the Endangered Species Act has been reduced to the point of non-existence.

What else have you people illegally rubber-stamped or falsified recently? Believe me, I intend to look into the matter (and all future FWS decisions) very closely

Sincerely,

—PETER GALVIN

Dear friends,

I am a prisoner in Florence, Arizona. I have been a marijuana activist and environmentalist for the past seven years. I got two 4-year sentences for pot possession. I am requesting to receive Earth First! Journal and if possible, to distribute my address by publication. I have no family in this state and my friends don't know I'm here. Enclosed is a flyer that I made describing my plight. In the past, I have supported the effort aggressively by removing survey markers and helping people in the White Mountains who were looking for the spotted owls. I really would appreciate your passing on my address because I am desperate for communication. Thank you for your time and trouble.

Peace and love,

GRASSHOPPER BILL
WILLIAM ROUSSEAU #93626
ARIZONA STATE PRISON, FLORENCE
POB 5000, EAST UNIT
FLORENCE, AZ 85232

Oh Lord what fools these EF!ers be. They expend so much effort to protest the destruction of individual sites of ecological importance yet say hardly a word about the worst destroyers.

Organized Religions, all of them, must have an economic base in order to exist, and an economic base must have political power to ensure its survival.

The basic hoax perpetuated by the founders of this country was in leading the people to believe that it was possible to seperate the Church (Religion) and the State (Government) when in fact, religion needs the support of the State. In protecting what is referred to as "Freedom of Religion," the Government underwrites the power of all Religions to vie with each other for the power to control what has become the Corporate State.

In this country, we have seen the growing arrogance of the Catholic Church overriding, subverting and manipulating environmental laws in order to become the most powerful, environmentally destructive and pervasive conglomerate corporation in the world, it owns vast amounts of land, factories, lumber mills, hospitals, etc. yet doesn't pay taxes and doesn't even have to report its income.

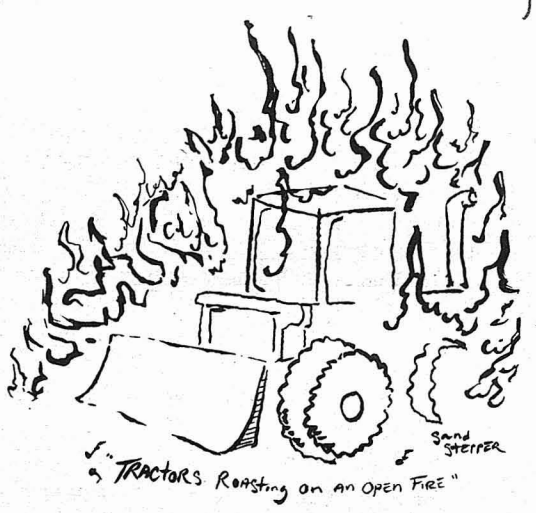
Mt. Graham is just one example of the money-making deals the Vatican has manipulated with the help of Senator DeConici and other Catholic Legislators. We have here the spectacle of the Catholic Church, which tormented Galileo for heresy in revealing the truth about the movement of the planets, now interested in the exploration of the universe! The credulity of the Catholic laity who support such projects.

If EF! is indeed dedicated to "No Compromise in Defense of Mother Earth", why don't we attack her rapists?

The Catholic Church is a good place to start. The Church has already demonstrated its disregard for the environment by its destruction of Cherry Creek State Park in Colorado and its continuing destruction of Mt. Graham; what further proof do we need?

There's no such thing as a Catholic environmentalist!

—ZORRO



I came out of the woods long enough to take a shit at a FS toilet. Funny thing. I found copies of yer fine mag there. So I ripped off a piece to... ahem ... use & the call for Eco Artwork caught my eye.

Well here is a couple to help out.

I'll see if I can drum up anymore.

Keep up the good work!

From the Great Lakes

—SAND STEPPER

On November 21, a few dozen Earth First!ers limped on atrophied legs out of the federal building in Moscow, Idaho, after a grueling five and a half days in court. For the most part, we felt victorious; not because we won (we didn't), but because somewhere in the midst of all the absurdity the judicial system has to offer, we turned a waning spark into a raging inferno.

Most of the defendants were there as a result of an action that took place on International Wild Rockies Wilderness Day (save one particular prison bound recidivist). While we didn't save Cove/Mallard (yet) from the ominous threat of destruction, we did remind people of the urgency to defend—we did convey to the court and public that we are dedicated, passionate, intelligent, downright likable people who are not giving up.

Closing arguments—which finally rolled around on Day 5—were perfectly poignant and poetic... heartfelt and gut wrenching, sincere, intense, inspiring. The trials hosted every aspect of a Shakespeare play: comedy, tragedy, melodrama, and intriguing costume (right down to one Mr. Walter Brown in a stunning blue satin evening gown on the stand). Together we suffered through every emotion known to exist—felt it, conveyed it.

The daily papers reminded the public that this vast and irreplaceable wilderness is being stolen. Stories confronted the question of Forest Service ethics (or lack thereof) and left people (hopefully) reminded of the need for wild things and wild places.

So, amid the frustration and despair of our love for Cove/Mallard, the week left us all with a common thread of conviction (um, personal that is, as well as criminal). But the fight is not over—it is not any less complicated or difficult—it is not going away and neither are we.

—DARRYL ECHT

Dear Shit fer Brains,

We three incarcerated Deadheads wish to comment on Miss Demeanor's Samhain 1993 article.

Frankly we feel that the article in general is condescending from word one. We agree that the point of Jerry Garcia's guitar being of teak and mahogany, is moot. However, we feel that you speak of the Grateful Dead scene without actually realizing what it is all about. We do a lot of good, including proceeds from shows and merchandising going to rainforest and other benefits. Your reference to Deadheads smoking all the hardwood pipes is beyond ridiculous. What kind of expert is this?

How can you possibly say you were "horrified" by the show? This is a celebration of peace and love. This is something that is being forced into extinction, much like the naked campfires that you speak of.

We maintain that the Grateful Dead and the Deadheads are a positive force, and we ask that you stop knocking us. One positive and ecologically aware thing that Deadheads do is we continually and voluntarily pick up garbage and clean up during and after every show. What other band's followers do this? You see, we really need to band together and support each other instead of preaching "holier-than-thou" ecological philosophy. This useless bickering only detracts time and energy from causes we both believe in. In other words, united we stand, divided we fall.

We must be honest in saying that the "demeaning" tone of your article did somewhat infuriate us. Especially your opening paragraph insulting "Bewildered in Berzerkley". Immature and petty are words that barely describe. Was this really necessary? For this we respond: You appear to be a straight-laced, prim-and-proper, high-society type of person. We, conversely (Deadheads, and practicers of Direct Action politics), tend to be a rag-tag band of outlaws and the respective support groups. We all have our places and self-realized duties in the movement, however, we feel it discourteous and even contemptuous or malicious to discredit or belittle other groups' efforts. This behavior, we feel, is best left to the "other side" or those bent on destruction of our Mother Earth. Just because you happen to be more verbose than "Bewildered" doesn't give you the right to insult his intelligence. Also, the movement may seem "fun" to you, but to us, and the incarcerated others, it's damn serious and anything but fun to be imprisoned for a cause that we believe in. We don't get to go to any actions, RRRs, or those high-society naked campfires. We three are here for amongst other things, refusing to implicate or testify against anyone else. We are here away from our families and we have very little support.

Dearest Miss Demeanor, we ask that you please attempt to be more gracious to those who share common beliefs and practices of the movement. Discontent among us is precisely what the establishment wants. If, however, you feel that you are a better class of environmentalist than us, we have one thing to say: "An EF! fist embroidered blouse and a few days in jail does not an ecologically aware person make."

Keep it kind... please. One last thing, Miss Demeanor, from we three incarcerated Deadheads, Happy Holidays from prison.

Peace and Love,

—THE FELLOW KNEES

Miss Demeanor replies: Okey dokey.

Dear Your Brians Have Gone to Shit!

Let's talk turkey... lets talk about violence. I was involved in a campaign this summer that required people to say they wouldn't commit violent acts if they were involved in the said campaign. O.K. I thought to myself I am not going out to shoot anyone out here, so I can agree to this. "No," they said. "We mean no monkeywrenching," you know machinery destruction or what have you. I was disgusted, Earth First!ers have taken on the propaganda and hysteria of such groups as Wise-Use! You want to talk about violence, what is occurring in the woods is violent... and I am not talking about spark plugs getting pulled. Trees falling for the almighty dollar, roads being built into the wilderness ripping up the last of what is wild is really fucking violent! We should be doing all in our power to stop them. Do we really think that just sitting on a road and saying "Please stop what you are doing" is really going to work? Better yet, has it worked? Maybe I am just not big on civil disobedience... but a jailed activist is just that.... jailed. There needs to be room for more than one approach to things; that's what is going to save these areas. Anyhow back to this campaign I was involved in, I realized alot of people I knew and respected were also in this same belief system, so I began to talk to people about it. I was told that monkeywrenching doesn't make for a long term campaign, that "Classic" Civil Disobedience means that you have made a long term commitment to the campaign that you will be there till the end, and "those" people that go around wrenching just show up to Fuck Shit Up and then take off. WRONG! By another person, I was told that people could do whatever they wanted to Freddy property but that anything yellow (privately owned) was off limits. I am confused, I know that the Freddies are part of the problem, but the people that are out there actually cutting down the forest are the other part of the equation. It should be open season on *all* of these bastards, doing everything we can to throw "wrenches " at them. Isn't that the idea, to stop them from doing what it is they are doing?

I soon became aware that a lot of people held these sort of feelings, I decided to investigate their beliefs; what I found was a very common response by a lot of people. I was hit with the argument that we couldn't get worker's support if we wrench their vehicles. I want people to take into consideration that not all of us are seeking the same goals; maybe I don't want the workers' support anymore, maybe I have tried to get their support and just don't care anymore, maybe I am sick of watching them destroy the earth, and maybe they have had enough warnings and it is time to get serious. There are those of us that have tried in vain to do worker outreach and have hit the point where we don't give a damn about their jobs, just as much as they don't care about our opinions. I have lost patience with saying "Please" and now I am saying "NO" to these people. You can sit around and say

continued on the next page

More #@*!?@?* Letters

continued from the previous page

Please until you are blue in the face... I am sick of it. We need to come to an area of common respect and deal with each other. You can sit on the road and I will respect that... I might go out and spike that road!!

—Rootrot

Dear *Journal*:

So there we were in this wilderness area and these guys were drinking beer and playing some loud heavy metal music and my friend said, "Wow, that noise is probably scaring away all the beavers and mice and bears and stuff because it's so loud. We should say something!" And I said, "Yeah, I'm getting a headache, too!" So we walked over to these guys, who were cutting off the sleeves of some black concert T-shirt (I think they were using pinking shears, which is toxic, I heard) and somebody burped when we walked up which is like a modern territorial thing and everybody froze.

Then this guy looked right at me and crushed a beer can right into his chest, burped and threw it into the river!! "Hey!" my friend said. I don't know what came over us but suddenly we ran over to the ice chest and grabbed four six-packs and ran up this hill to the parking lot. When we got up top we raised the six-packs in the air (which were heavy) and yelled Earth First!

And then we got into our car and drove away really fast. We called the cops and told them to arrest those guys and even gave them the address of the *Journal* to send the pictures to you to publish because I know you're always supposed to get some kind of arrest picture or something. We are going to start an EF! group here now!! Can you send someone to train us?

—Lotus Earth First!
California

PS: We were not violent (I don't think) (I did flip somebody off).

Earth First!

Greetings from Club Fed, Jesup, Georgia. Life here is wonderful in most respects. The one thing sorely lacking is contact with the outside world. In this respect I would like to request y'all send a copy of the *Journal*. I would especially enjoy seeing a copy of the one which came out just after my trial in Spokane (June-July).

I suppose I owe y'all an apology. I never planned on writing any EF! slogans on those wonderful old trees (someone else started doing it and after it was written once there was no going back, eh?). Oh well.

I'm sure y'all were glad to learn that the "System" isn't totally fucked in that the innocent got to go home in the end. I also found it ironic that two of the snitches got more time than my co-defendant Mr. Fairchild.

On a brighter note (which might potentially relate to some of your readers: my appeal is looking GOOD! 18-1864 is of course a misdemeanor crime, who cares about those (?) (the exception being that if you are charged with the same minor crime five times it becomes a felony). 18-1631 involves "*willful injury* to *government* property," and the Feds themselves stated "there is no damage that we know of to the trees from driving nails into them"—oops—the other part of this special law says that whoever commits "depredation", blah blah. Words are too literally construed when written into law (somebody important said that once) so depredation means "to rob, plunder or pillage," yup, it don't apply to saving a few trees from corporate rapists, ha told you so Merkley. My newest attorney feels he can get me out on bond pending appeal; I won't go. "They" invited me to stay for 17 months and by god's I'm staying. Of course the false charges against me in Montana have something to do with that decision also. Right now it will cost Montana approximately $20,000 to get me up there for trial (jury of course) (ha, ha, ha) whereas if I checked out of "Club Fed" it would cost them almost nothing. "Be all you can be—cost them every damn cent you can."

So did y'all get the copy of the Motion of Discovery I sent ya? It's damn sure worth filing no matter how small the charge or whether or not you intend to plead guilty (wimps only). Any new indictments up that a-way? I now have *absolute proof* that ol' Merkley *lied under oath;* anybody want the info? It would allow any indictment he was a part of to be dismissed. Think about it, eh?

While I certainly have never be an "EF! Member" could (would) y'all put a blip in the *Journal* and see if anybody out there might write to me? Also I've spent hundreds of hours in the law library and while I sure as hell don't want to know any of the facts of anyone's case I would be glad to provide much case law in an attempt to help anybody charged with anything remotely related to helping Mom.

Remember two things, eh? 1) Jury trials are *lots* of fun. 2) You won't go to prison if convicted! You'll go to a "prison camp", just myself and that Mark guy in California. NO fences, no guards, great facilities, live music (no shit), art studio, track and weights, good food and medical, just too much to list. And if you're lucky as I was before you get to camp you might get to see places like Atlanta USP (a *real* prison), which has extremely rare federal architecture not just everyone gets to see.

Peace,

—Spicer
John P. Blount #24513-013
FPC Box 270
PO Box 2650
Jesup, GA 31545

Dear Friends:

I was born on an irrigated farm in Bonneville County, ID. this farm had been homesteadid by my great uncle Scott Capser, & never married Veteran (union army) of the civil war of 1860's.

My father and his prospective father-in law had bilt the modest frame hous and I was born in. Befoor my father and my scool teacher Mother wer wedded- Not all the sage brush had bin cleerd off the homested. I still remember the acrid smoke from the sage brush he waz cutting/chopping down and burning hwen I waz a small boy.

I came out of hiy scool in 1931, things wer still going down hill az the Great Depression took hold. I didn't hav the miens to go to College; my father, then a widower, had my six yungor siblings ot reize and support. In the sumr of 1936, I went work for the US Forist Service In the Clear-Water Country-in Northern Idaho. We, I and scores of other men and youths wer put to work cleaning out all "Ribes" species from the mostly Pine woods to stop the spred of the Hwyte Pine blister Rust (it spreds alternatly from currant & goose berry bushes/vines to Pine trees and bac to theze and other Ribes species).

Their waz a good deal of cutover/clearcut areas, most of hwich, Mother Nature had partly re-clothed with bushes and some 2nd groth Pine. I did not giv the matr much thoht then.

Later-in the late 40's-50's my yungist brother- a pentocostal minister began his career serving small congregacions in SW Oregon and on down into Northern Calif. In 1955 if I remember rytely, he waz with the help of sum members of hiz then congregacion bilding a wooden church bilding, mienhwyle yuzing a large tent and moonlyting as meintononss mecanic for the Id. Lumber Co. also as nyte watchman to the sawmill. He pointid out the litl town -Scotia, hedworkers of the Id lumber Co., az drove I drove by wun day- it will hav bin the Georgia Pacific Co. I'm not shure that waz the outfit he moonyted for.

As I hav lernd in recent years GP waz then a family-owned Company, hwich foloed a fairly decent & enlytend Policy, not clearcutting vast tracks- and at no susteinubl groth pace, so that theor wud be timborwork in the fyutuyure, in their time. then su of the family memebers wonted to sell of their shares for other fields of invetment. For this reozon, the Co. went public and offerd share on the Stock Markit. Unfortyunatly that made GP vulnerabl to a junk bond finost takeover by Maxxam& Co.

The new managment installd by Maxxam promptly stept up the pace of cutting enlarged the operac ion, and over the protests of the long tyme workforce began reckliss clearcutting of az to pay off the hiy intrist junk bonds in a hurry. Maxam didn't/duzn't giv a dam for the fyutyure welfar of the employees and their suns, or for meinteining forist habitat for the birds & beasties and other critrs and life forms hoo had constisuted the forist ecosistems for ages- the Hell with them, the hell with the samon and trout and the insudtry they supportid.

Doo I have it ryte?

about 2 weeks ago I chanst to pick up a copy of yuer Earth First Jurnal for the literature table at First Untierion Church of LA of hwich I had bin a sumtyme member. After getting aound to reiding EFJ, I have decyded to become subsriber.

Respectfully,

—Newton J. Casper
Culver City, CA

To the *Journal*:

Have you heard about this? I was watching CNN today when a story came on about the Angeles National Forest, located near Los Angeles California. Apparently, there are three rare species of frogs who live in the Angeles National Forest whose numbers are dwindling at an alarming rate. There is also (surprise surprise!) a ski resort in the region, the name of which I unfortunately didn't catch, who wants to use the same stream water that the frogs live in to make artificial snow during the ski season. This would surely damn the already endangered frogs. So far, the resort has been unsuccessful in their attempts to get a permit for the water use.

I suggest protests and letter-writing and what not to keep the resort from getting their permit, or at least delay it as long as possible. If they do get their permit, however, I suggest full scale messin' around with whatever machines they use to suck up the frog's (and other living creatures) water.

Keep up the good work!

—Michigan EF! supporter

Earth First!

Hey there, much as I enjoy reading the rag, I gotta stop my subscription for now. I'm a Peace Corps Volunteer in Burundi, Africa, succeeding in living simply. I feel guilty about all the energy put into mailing the *Journal* to me, plus I can't recycle it and nobody else wants to read it.

So until I get back (early 95) discontinue my subscription. Send it to someone who wants it in the States, OK?

Africa's OK. Overpopulated though. How much for one of those Love Your Mother, Don't Become One bumperstickers? Translate it into Kirundi for me and sent out a few thousand. The pope is big here along with infant mortality. So people have 6-7+ kids. Nobody starves here... yet. But with 5 million people in a country the size of Maryland, it won't be pretty in a few years.

If you care, I work in conservation. I live on the continental divide of Africa in a forest called the Kibira. We got chimps, birds, other primates, some small cats. Burundi has hippos, crocs and buffalo, as well. Everything else got killed off. Bummer deal.

Thanx again. Keep up the good work. C-ya@the RRR '95.

Kristen A. Bettencourt
Corps de la Paix
B.P. 1720
Bujumbura, Burundi

P.S. I love your mailing envelopes (Recycled Forest Service envelopes).

P.P.S. If there are any people out there interested in Africa or traveling here, they can write me at the above address for information. I'll be here until August '94, then I'm off to do some traveling.

Editors:

I'd like to submit this poem for the black humor enjoyment of all:

Cannibal Solution

At the soup kitchen (which would not exist if we'd all stayed hunter gatherers), that ain't venison in tha soup,

"Waiter, there's a DuPont CEO in my soup!"

A cannibal at hand is worth two assholes' carcasses in the clearcut.

Hunters, did a mountain man bag you?

Yes, I'll take my Human poached, thank you.

Save the West, eat that "pork" instead of beef.

The sign in an urban dirt strip says "No Hunting"—

Hey, that ain't venison in the soup kitchen...

(I ain't no Cereal Killer)

—Lurking Misanthrope

ANNOUN

Throw the Book at Al

Activists have organized a campaign to "throw the book" at Vice President Al Gore, claiming he has abandoned positions advocated in his book *Earth in the Balance* and promises made during the presidential campaign. Others claim the book was sold by false advertising as non-fiction. The one-time critic of our "dysfunctional civilization", who warned that without "dramatic change," our "children will inherit a wasteland," has become an unabashed advocate of American-style consumerism and industrial growth economy. He who decried our "false world of plastic flowers and Astroturf, air conditioning and fluorescent lights, windows that don't open and background music that never stops, days when we don't know whether it has rained or not, nights when the sky never stops glowing, Walkman and Watchman, entertainment cocoons, frozen food from the microwave oven, sleepy hearts jump-started with caffeine, alcohol, drugs and illusions" was seen recently promoting NAFTA by glorifying a Walmart in Mexico City, with *72 cash registers* selling American produce to Mexicans.

The book return campaign was initiated by a specific act of betrayal. Both Clinton and Gore campaigned against a massive toxic waste-burner set to operate in East Liverpool, Ohio, which was expected to spew large quantities of lead, mercury, and dioxin into the surrounding neighborhood.

Well, guess what? Two months after Inauguration Day, the EPA gave Waste Technologies Industries (WTI) the go-ahead. Clinton and Gore changed their minds, speaking of "federal obligations to WTI's investors".

On November 6 a demonstration took place at Lafayette Park, across the street from the White House, to throw the books back at Al. Literally borrowing a page from Al's book, rally participants launched copies of the book from a catapult. Not surprisingly, the police would not allow the catapult anywhere near the gates, so books were launched over a giant replica of a $10,000 campaign check from WTI to the Democratic National Committee.

WHAT YOU CAN DO:

Terri Swearingen, who lives across from the WTI facility, is collecting books for mass returns. Her address is: Rd. 1, Box 365, Rt. 30, Chester, WV 26034.

PS—Don't forget to put a personal message in the front of your copy.

—CHRIS ROTH

The Shameful Seven:

Pro-NAFTA "Environmental" Organizations and some of their Benefactors

•**World Wildlife Fund:** Eastman Kodak ($2.5 million), Waste Management Inc., DuPont, Phillip Morris, Mexican Government ($30 million)

•**National Wildlife Federation:** Dow, DuPont, Monsanto, 3M, Shell, Penzoil, Waste Management Inc.

•**National Audobon Society:** General Electric, Waste Management Inc., Proctor & Gamble

•**The Nature Conservancy:** Coca-Cola ($2 million), DuPont, Cargill, Phillip Morris, Waste Management Inc., Tenneco, Proctor & Gamble

•**Environmental Defense Fund**

•**Defenders of Wildlife**

•**Natural Resources Defense Council**

—NO SWEAT NEWS

SPIRIT OF THE SAGE COUNCIL

BY LEEONA KLIPPSTEIN

Spirit of the Sage Council is a visionary biocentric grassroots alliance of environmental activists, Native American leaders and ecological organization. We support no-compromise defense of wilderness, biological diversity, the integrity of natural ecosystems including sacred sites and the vitality of ceremonial, healing and medicinal plants of our Mother Earth.

Council priorities include: Alluvial fan sage scrub and southern California forest preservation, access to all plants for health and medicinal use, indigenous land rights and freedom of religion.

Spirit of the Sage Council representatives are available for speaking engagements.

Send contributions or questions to theSpirit of the Sage Council PO Box 77027 Pasadena, CA 91107-6921; phone (818) 449-8702.

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1994 Earth First! Activist Conference

This year's conference will be held February 4-7 in the mountains of the Angeles National Forest outside of LA. Lodging consists of heated dorms with bunk beds for about 50 people, unheated cabins and outdoor campsites. Food will be provided by Food Not Bombs. Bring warm clothes, your own utensils and bedding. Come ready for long meetings, to be held in a central lodge.

The conference will begin Friday at 6 pm and conclude at noon on Monday. Opening the conference will be a blessing and greeting from the Gabreilino/Shoshone Nation. There will also be a greeting followed by music and dance from the Aztlan Mexica Nation. Saturday night there will be Celtic harp music and poetry.

This year's conference has NOT received any funding from foundations. Therefore, the committee is requesting $30-$40 per person. If you don't have the $, then start saving. *Everyone* will be asked to pay.

Proposed Agenda Items:

New Directions for the Movement
Indigenous Alliances and Defense of Sacred Sites
Campaign Strategies
Tactics and Tools
Animal Rights
The Direct Action Fund and Foundations
Natural Laws vs. Legislative Laws and Litigation
Media Massaging
Direct Action Video
Environmental Activist Harassment
The 1995 EF! Organizers Conference
And, of course, the *EF! Journal*

Note: This is a proposed agenda; send suggestions and communications to Leeona at: Alluvial Sage, #102, POB 77027, Pasadena, CA 91107-6921 by January 15.

Actions

There will be at least one action focused on coastal sage scrub immediately following the conference and an action against Hyundai a few days later (see article on page 28). Please come in advance and stay for the actions, if possible.

Media

Nancy Pearlman of the cable video series "Environmental Directions" and the radio program "Eco-News" has invited all EF!ers to be interviewed on these shows outside of the conference. For those who want to get their campaign some attention, contact Leeona ASAP. This invitaion includes musicians and poets.

Warrior Poets

There will be a Warrior Poets Night to Howl the night before the conference. It will be at the Iguana Cafe in North Hollywood, starting at 9 pm on Feb. 3. All Warrior Poets should come prepared to read; others planning to attend should come early to catch this terrific show, which will be a fund raiser for Earth First!

RSVP

Confirmation of attendance is necessary to arrange food, rides and accommodations. Maps to the site will be available by confirming your reservations with Leeona at (818) 449-8702 or Lorin at (818) 906-6833. If you are driving, please help carpool and bring snow chains. If you are traveling by bus, train or plane and need to be picked up, call Leona or Lorin. If you have any special needs or require a place to stay before or after the conference, please call ahead. ADVANCE NOTICE IS REQUIRED; please don't just show up and expect to be accommodated. See you there.

FOOD NOT BOMBS
You can begin feeding the hungry and working for peace by starting a FOOD NOT BOMBS group in your community. Food Not Bombs is a nonviolent all-volunteer network that provides free, hot vegetarian meals and political support to low income people in over 25 cities in North America. Food Not Bombs is *empowering, rewarding and FUN!*
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CEMENTS

Super Heroes Unite to Battle Mitsubishi Man

Mitsubishi Exhibit Buried Under Chopsticks and Sawdust

On November 22, Captain Planet (aka Randy Hayes) led an assault on the Mitsubishi Auto exhibit at the San Francisco International Auto Show. Joining forces with our eco-superhero were Superman, the Flash, Batman and Robin. The caped crusaders ascended a 15 foot display to take on the evil Mitsubishi Man. With bullhorns blaring to a crowd including 60 activists, they accused Mitsubishi Man of being the head of the "Chainsaw Gang" composed of Georgia Pacific, Weyerhaeuser, and other logging companies. They challenged Mitsubishi to stop its destructive operations, to stop turning rainforests into disposable plywood and boreal forests into chopsticks and fax paper. The crowd cheered and pelted Mitsubishi Man (and the entire exhibit) with thousands of disposable chopsticks and bags of sawdust. They chanted "Stop the Chop, Boycott Mitsubishi!!" for 20 minutes as they marched around the exhibit.

When the police arrived the 37 remaining demonstrators were told they were being arrested. They were detained for an hour outside the exhibit hall. In the end, all were released except for the seven individuals who played the roles of super heroes. Mitsubishi Man (aka Michael Marx) was also arrested. Those arrested were held for three hours, charged with vandalism, and released. There was good coverage on several radio stations and local newspapers in the Bay Area.

The entire scene was videotaped for inclusion in a training video, for the Rainforest Action Network (RAN), on how to plan and conduct an auto show demo. It will precede a traveling-demo kit that is being assembled this month. The kit will include a 35' inflatable chainsaw with blower, tethers, etc.; banners, posters, and flyers; superhero costumes for Superman, Batman and Robin, Ultraman (Japanese), Spiderwoman, and Captain Planet; and press kits. Groups in the US and Canada should determine when the dates for their local auto show are and schedule the demo kit immediately from RAN!!

Last year campaigners hit 19 auto shows. This year we plan to hit 30 with a lot more intensity.

Contact Rainforest Action Network at (415) 398-4404.

FREE VIDEO CAMERAS AVAILABLE FOR ACTIVISTS

EarthKind and the Beach Boys launched Eyes of the Earth to provide broadcast quality video cameras to grassroots environmental and indigenous groups to aid in educating the public about critical environmental problems. Eyes of the Earth also established a distribution network of news media, NGOs, and educational and governmental institutions to increase the impact of the videotapes that are produced.

Video cameras have proven very useful in the effort of forest activists to educate the public about the mismanagement of our national forests. New projects to monitor the Forest Service and other land management agencies could become a powerful enforcement tool to ensure they are in compliance with the law do not continue to abuse their discretion.

If you are interested in applying for a video camera, submit a one-page project description which must meet these criteria: (1) the project must address environmental problems or solutions; (2) The project must be action-oriented and have a clear strategy for change; and (3) The project must demonstrate that the use of a video camera will make a critical strategic difference in addressing particular issues. You should also specify how you plan to disseminate the videotape and how it could be used both locally and through the Eyes of the World network.

Project descriptions should be sent to Eyes of the Earth, c/o Milestones Media, 815 Allston Way, Berkeley, CA 94710.

—Western Ancient Forest Campaign

Forest Action Roadshow

Earth First! bards Casey Neill and Darryl Cherney will be touring the Northwest in January with music, a slideshow and raps on forest activism. Tentative dates:

- 1/19 Evergreen State College in Olympia
- 1/20 Seattle
- 1/21 Lopez Island
- 1/23 Vancouver
- 1/24 Bellingham
- 1/25 Reed College in Portland
- Eugene date later that week.

For more information call (206) 866-9551.

Tree Thieves

Thomas Creek Lumber & Log Co. of Stayton, Oregon, will pay $1.5 million for stealing logs from national forests between 1983 and 1988. The firm pleaded guilty Tuesday to receiving stolen property and did not contest a charge of illicitly using proceeds to run its business.

The plea in the US District Court closes a five-year federal timber theft probe centered on the North Santiam River Canyon. Prosecutors and the US Forest Service say timber firms may have stolen up to $36 million in federal timber for the area over the past several decades.

—Christian Science Monitor

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Big Picture Communications is a nonprofit activist art syndicate providing graphics and copy for use by any organization, publication, or individual working to protect the environment, raise social consciousness, or preserve and extend human rights.

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BPC's central philosophy is that as individuals, we can't just tend to our own affairs and hope for the best, but that each of us must take a larger and longer view and work towards making positive change.

BPC is a medium for both seeking out accurate sources of information and communicating them honestly and effectively. (Honesty making the difference between education and propaganda.)

BPC gratefully accepts donations. If your budget allows, please help out, if only to cover costs. A self addressed, stamped envelope is the best guarantee of receiving future material. Thank you.

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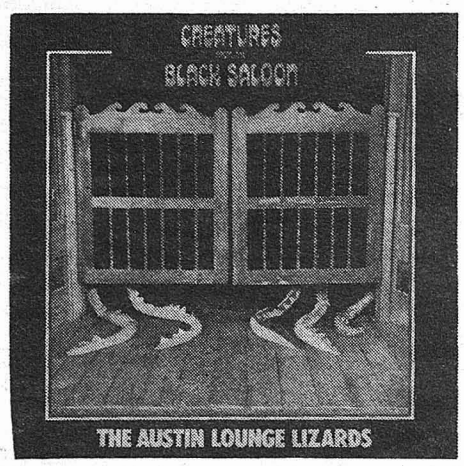

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Marvelous country/bluegrass satire. Lizard wit must be heard to be understood.
"Creatures From the Black Saloon" *Saguaro; Pflugerville; Anahuac; Hot Tubs of Tears; Old & Fat & Drunk...* TAPE • $10—CD • $15
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Darryl Cherney No one can create an appropriate action song as fast as Darryl. Earth First! activist and media slut extraodinaire, his music is a campfire favorite.
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"Timber" *Arizona Power Lines, Earth Night Action, Who Bombed Judi Bari?, Which Side Are You On, He Looked a Whole Lot Like Jesus...* $10

Katya Chorover "How This Feels" Katya's earthy voice shines with feeling. *How This Feels, Over The Mountains, Loon's Song, How We Pray...* $10

Lone Wolf Circles Lone Wolf puts his poetry to music to present a magical journey, with others joining their own songs to the prayer.
"Full Circle" 27 poems—$10
"Tierra Primera" A live recording of The Deep Ecology Medicine Show in Santa Fe-$10
"Oikos" with many friends and musical variety. *War to Save the Wilderness, Arabic Love Song, Amajoni, Ice Ages, Jamming with Kokopelli...* TAPE—$10 • CD—$14

Citizens Band There is no other group of musicians quite like Citizens Band. Their music is hilarious, politically correct and performed with great talent.
"A Pocketful of Rocks" *Guru Blues, Lyin' Scream, Did Jesus Have a Baby Sister?...* $10
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Clan Dyken Great funky reggae with a world beat mix, these folks can't be beat for dancin' your feet off.
"Clan Dyken" *Into the Night, Techno Voodoo, Still Jammin, New Day, Roots...* $10
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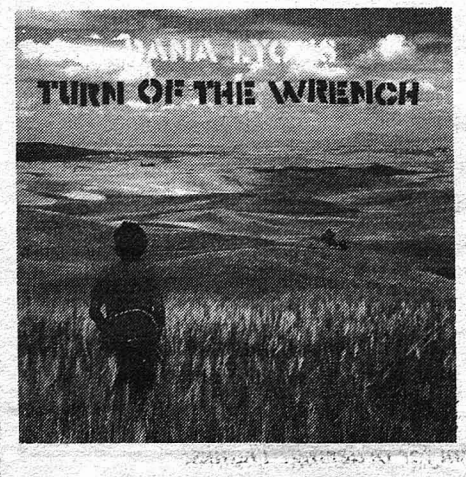
"Family Values" *Seven Generations, Wild Country, We Got the Groove, Ho Brother,...* $10
"Shundahai" *Spirit Trail, Song for a Nation, Love Conspiracy, Stolen Lands...* $10



Alice DiMicele Fine songs from one of Oregon's most talented musicians. Alice celebrates life with her distinctive voice.
"Make a Change" *Let it Rain, Wise Old Woman, Leonard Peltier, Dismantle, In a Gentle Way...* $10
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"Too Controversial" *American Dream, I Won't Say Goodbye, Everybody Needs to be Free, The Water is Wide, If I was a Wolf...* TAPE • $10 — CD • $14
"Searching" *Defend the Earth, Lift us Up, Land of Broken Promises, Moonrise and Emotion...* TAPE • $10 — CD • $14

Robert Hoyt "As American As You" Robert has impressed rendezvous audiences with his virtuoso guitar playing and home-grown lyrics. His debut tape includes: *Apple Pie, Red Mud, Good Americans, It's One Of Ours...* $10

Scotty Johnson "Century of Fools" Scotty is a folk singer/activist whose passion and humor shine in his first tape. *Spirit Lives, Watcher from the Sky, Wisdom from the Seventh Generation, Island in the Sky, Running from the Wind, One with the Earth...* $10

Greg Keeler Greg Keeler's marvelously satiric songs poke fun at everything worth poking fun at.
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"Talking Sweet Bye & Bye" *There'll Come A Revolution, Talking Sweet Bye & Bye, Facilitators From The Sky, Ski Yellowstone, Idaho, Death Valley Days...* $9
"Bad Science Fiction" *Cow College Calypso, Nuclear Waste Blues, If Bears Could Whistle, Nuclear Dioxin Queen, Duct Tape Psalm...* $9
"Post-Modern Blues" *P-U-B-L-I-C L-A-N-D-S, Post-Modern Romance, Ryegate Montana Testicle Festival, Lament of the Laundromat...* $9
"Enquiring Minds" *An Excuse to Go Drinkin', House Husband Blues, Bozeman MT, Kinder Gentler Song, Mount Graham Sam, Forest Circus, Planet of Morons...* $9

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Dana Lyons Dana's mellifluous voice and strong guitar backup convey a powerful, and often humorous, message about the state of our world.
"Turn of the Wrench" *Dancing in the Dirt, Cry of the Forest, I Saw Blood, TV God...* TAPE—$10 • CD—$15
"Our State is a Dumpsite" *The title song and The Company's Been Good to Me, The Stars Will Always Move, and Drying Tears* are on this short tape.—$6
"Animal" *RV, Building One In My City, I Am An Animal, I Saw His Body, Music Off The Moonlight, Timebomb, The Tree...* $10

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Peg Millett For Bookings Call (602) 445-9342

Peg Millett "Gentle Warrior" Longtime Earth First! activist, jailed with the "Arizona Five." Peg has one of the most beautiful voices you'll ever hear. *Forever Wild, High Plateau, There is Power, Gentle Warrior, What's Left of the West, Wild Things...* $10

Casey Neill "Pawprints" Earth-based lyrics combine with emotive vocals including back-ups by Citizens Band members. *My Relations, Naked Underneath Your Clothes, Resistance!, The Power...* $10

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Glen Waldeck "Wreckin' Ball Waldeck" This irreverent, guitar-swingin', styrofoam-hatin' musician's cassette includes: *With My Friends, Tulsa Rag, Inspired By You, It's Apparent, Every Dog Has Its Day, Sign of the Times, Yellowstone or Bussed, Wreckin' Ball...* $10

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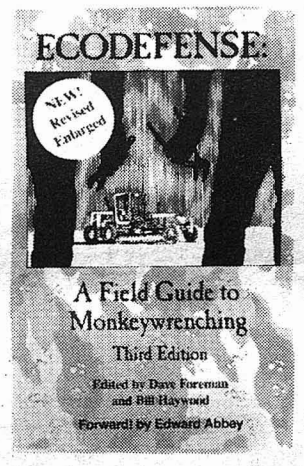

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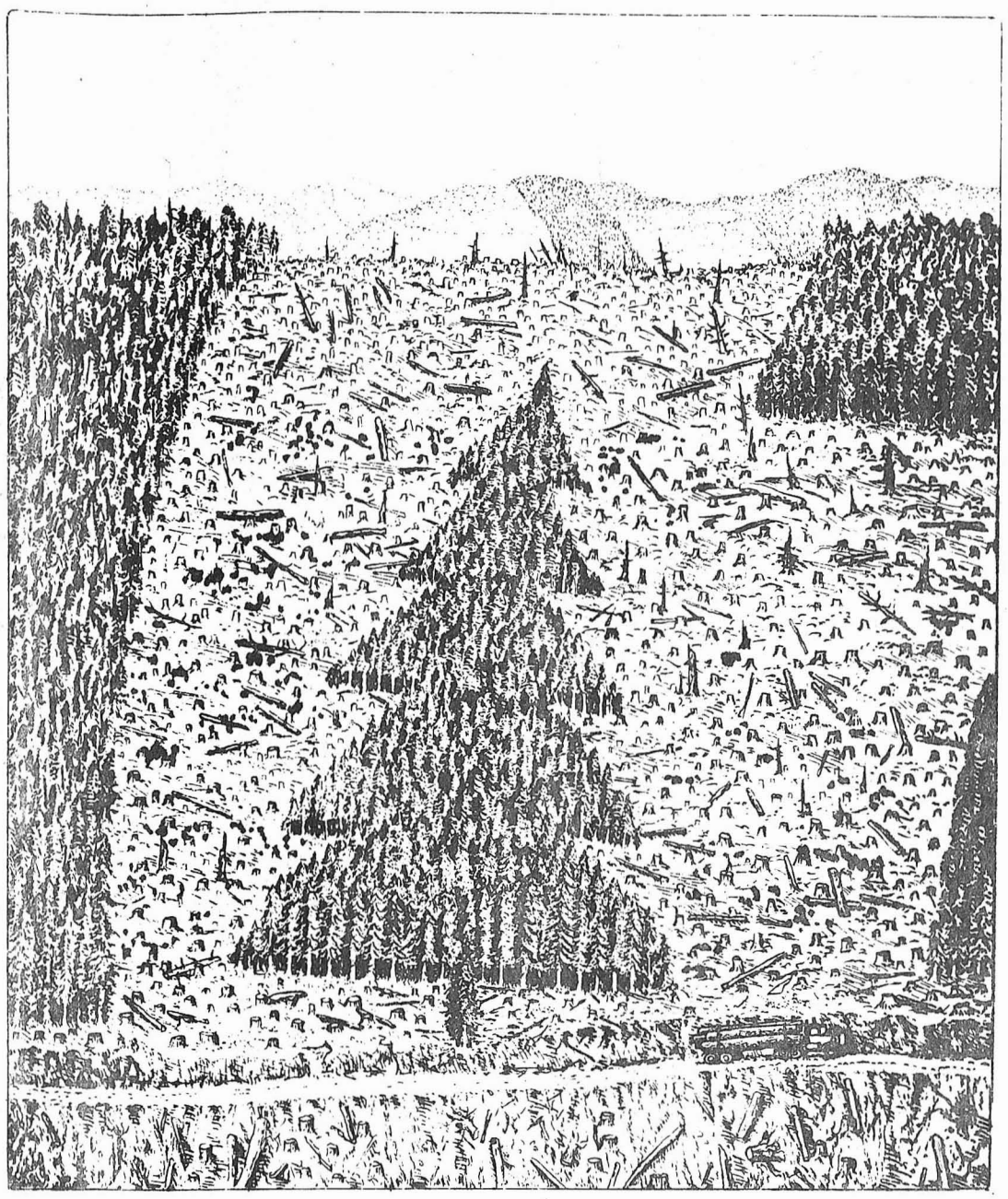

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